

NO. 2

JULY, 1987

\$2.00

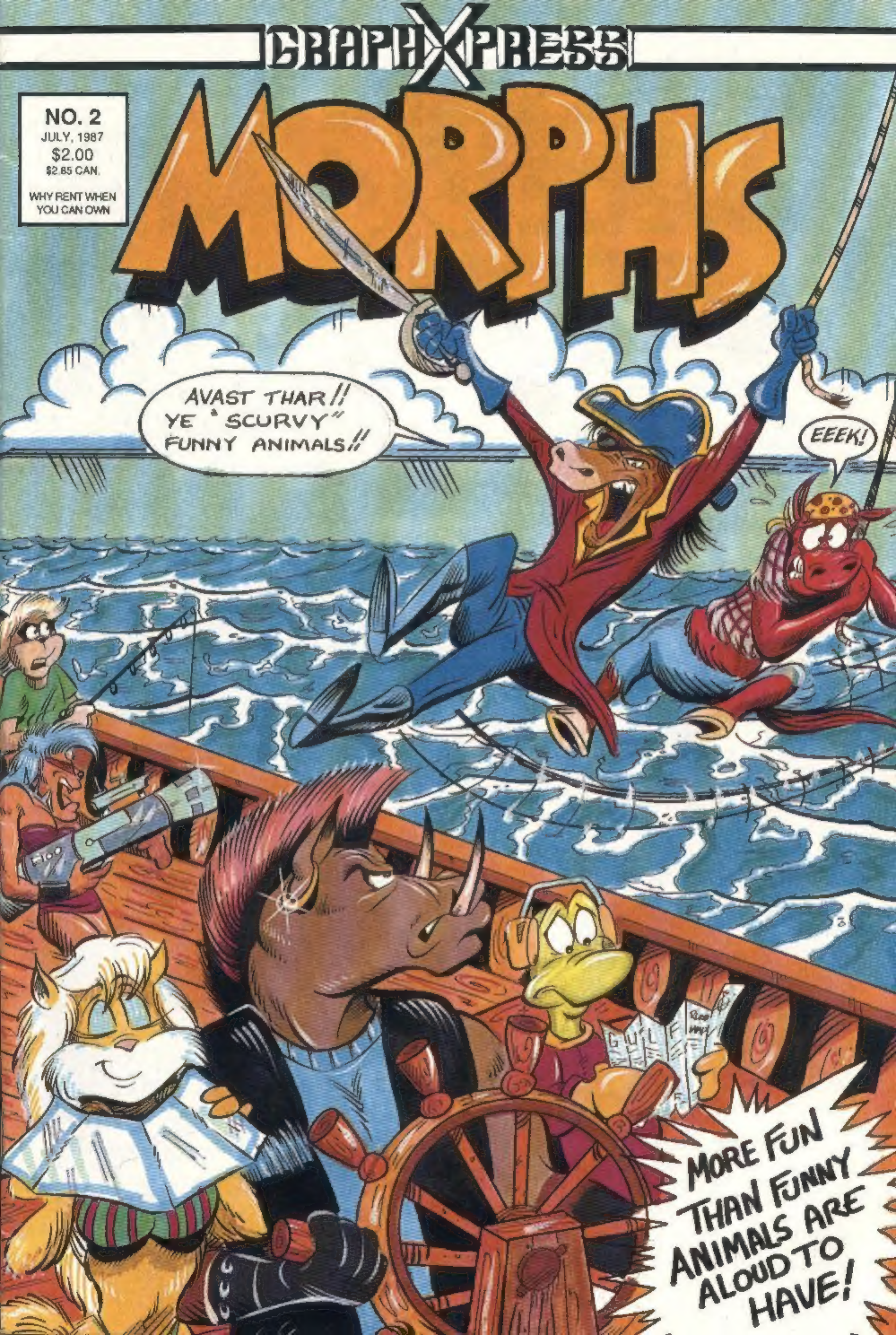
\$2.85 CAN.

WHY RENT WHEN
YOU CAN OWN

MORPHS

AVAST THAR!!
YE "SCURVY"
FUNNY ANIMALS!!

EEEEK!



MORE FUN
THAN FUNNY
ANIMALS ARE
ALOUND TO
HAVE!

MORPHS

No. 2 July, 1987

FRONT COVER: KEN MITCHRONEY
BACK COVER: JERRY COLLINS

BLACKMANE THE PIRATE
BY
KEN AND BETH MITCHRONEY

KITTY MALONE
IN
THE SLEEPING BUDDAHS
BY JOHN SPEIDEL

J.L. COON
IN
PLEASURE PALACE
BY TOM LINEHAN

STAR LIZARD
BY TOM OWENS

PUNK MUTANTS
ON CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
VS,
DALMATION ALLEY
BY PHIL MORRISEY



MORPHS #2, July, 1987, MORPHS is published quarterly by Graphxpress, P.O. Box 32292, Tucson, AZ 85751, and is COPYRIGHT 1987 by Graphxpress. All characters, stories and art are COPYRIGHT 1987 by their respective creators. The stories, characters and incidents portrayed in this publication are entirely fictional. Any similarities between the characters, organizations or institutions depicted in this publication and any actual persons, living or dead, any other fictional characters or any actual organizations or institutions without satirical intent are entirely coincidental. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of Graphxpress and the respective creator(s), so there! Small excerpts may be used for the purposes of review or other journalistic purposes.

Printed by RAINBOW GRAPHICS, P.O. Box 469, West Plains, MO. 65775
Typesetting by Dena Price, courtesy of Kinko's of Sandy Springs, Atlanta.

THE ADVENTURES OF **BLACKmane** THE PIRATE AND MORGAN THE RED

I WISH WE COULD SEE THE TELEVISION!
I'VE BEEN SO **BORED** SINCE I LOST MY EYE
TO THAT STUPID ACCIDENT!

YOU'RE BORED AND I'M OVERWORKED!
TV WOULD GET MY MIND OFF MY SORE
MUSCLES!!

STORY BY ♣ BETH MITCHRONEY & MARLENE BECKER
ART BY ♣ BETH & KENNY MITCHRONEY
LETTERS BY ♡ BETH MITCHRONEY
BUDDY & STRAD VARIUS OWNED BY KENNY & BETH MITCHRONEY



I MISS THE ADVENTURES OF SHOWING! A LITTLE ENTERTAINMENT WOULD BE NICE-I REMEMBER MOVIES I'VE SEEN ON TV-

STRADIVARIUS
Name: _____
Age: _____
Sex: _____
Color: _____
Breed: _____
Owner: _____
Trainer: _____
Notes: _____

WAIT! YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU START DAY-DREAMING!



LIKE - "THE LONE STRANGER AND PRONTO!" PRONTO! APACHE UPRISING, OLD FRIEND! TELL THEM WE MEAN NO HARM-WE'RE JUST LOOKING FOR THAT SAVAGE OUTLAW- THE CALICO KID!



UGH!

VIPITY
VIP VIP
ZIP ZIP
VIP VOT
VIP VIP
ZIPPITY
VIP VIP
VIP VIP



NO COMPRENDO DE ENGLISH!

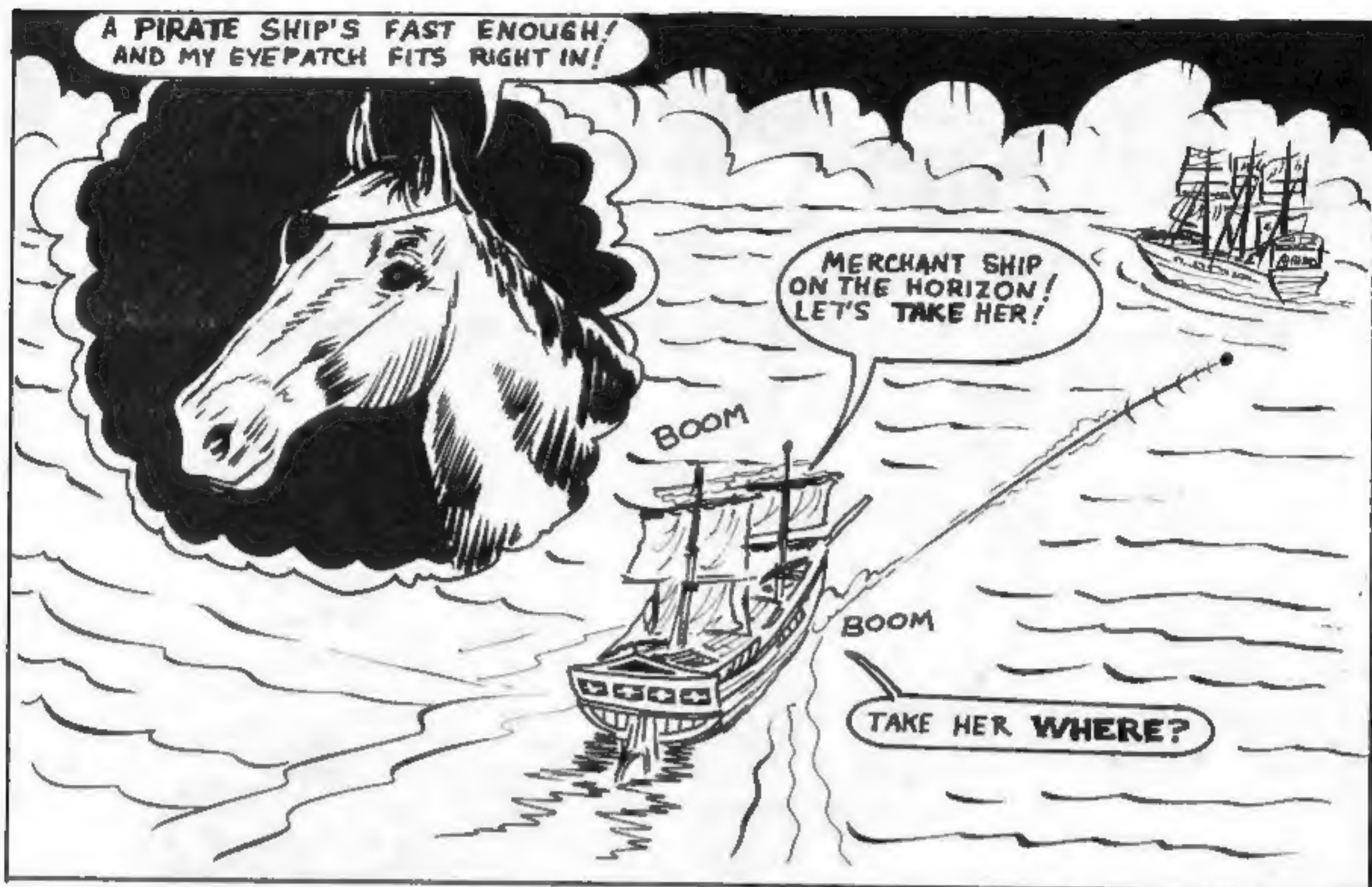
DON'T BE SORE, BUDDY! THERE ARE OTHER MOVIES- ACTION MOVIES!



DID YOU SAY ACTION? OR TRACTION?



A PIRATE SHIP'S FAST ENOUGH!
AND MY EYEPATCH FITS RIGHT IN!



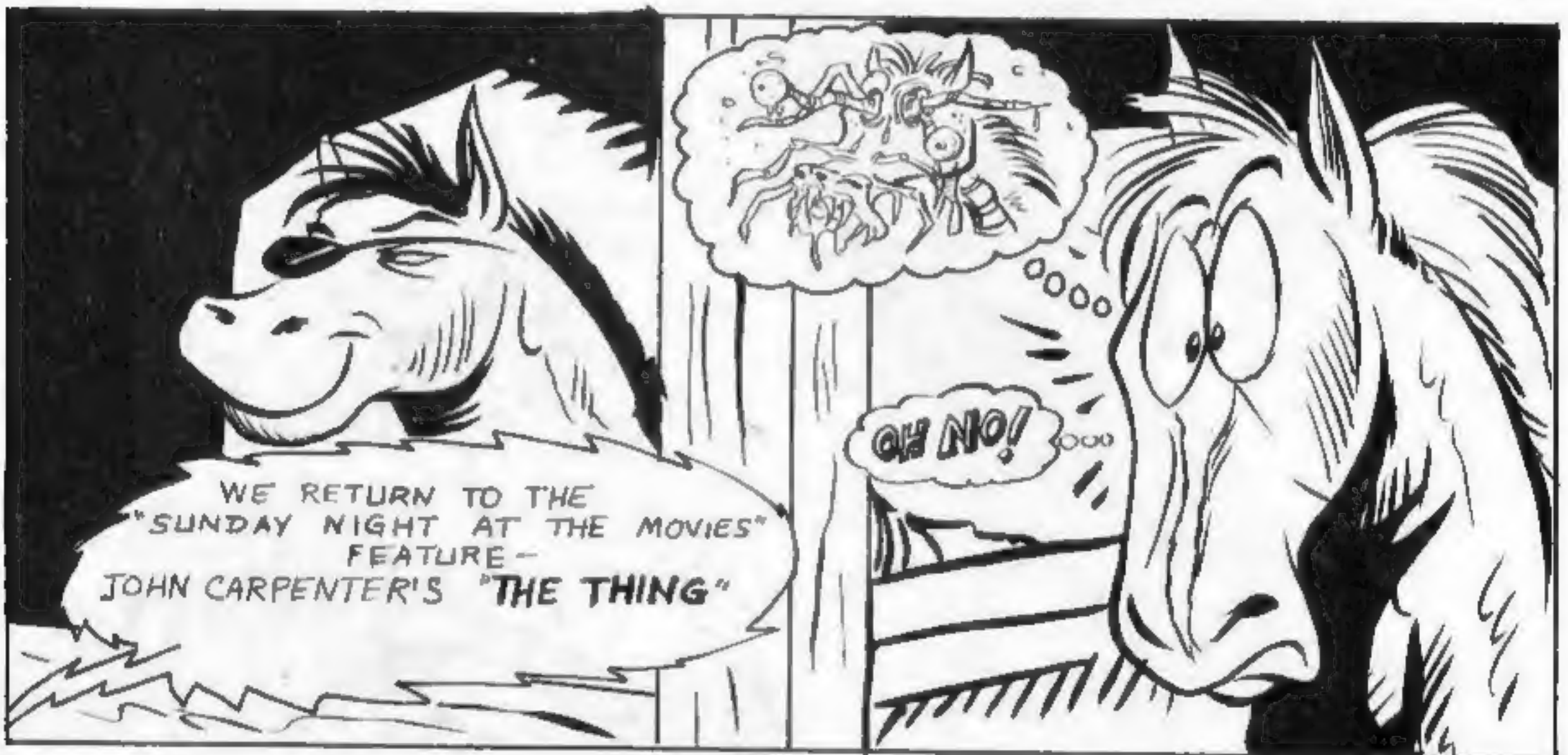
AFTER YE' PRIZE, ME HEARTIES!
AN' THERE'S GOLD ENOUGH
FOR ALL! YO-HO-HO! AND A BOTTLE
OF MINERAL OIL! FIRE THOSE CANNONS!
TAKE NO PRISONERS! WE'RE SAILING THE **BOUNDING MANE!**
UP THE MIZZIN' MAST! TRIM THOSE SAILS!

SURRENDER IN THE NAME OF
BLACKMANE THE PIRATE
AND
MORGAN THE RED!

WHO'S MORGAN
THE RED?





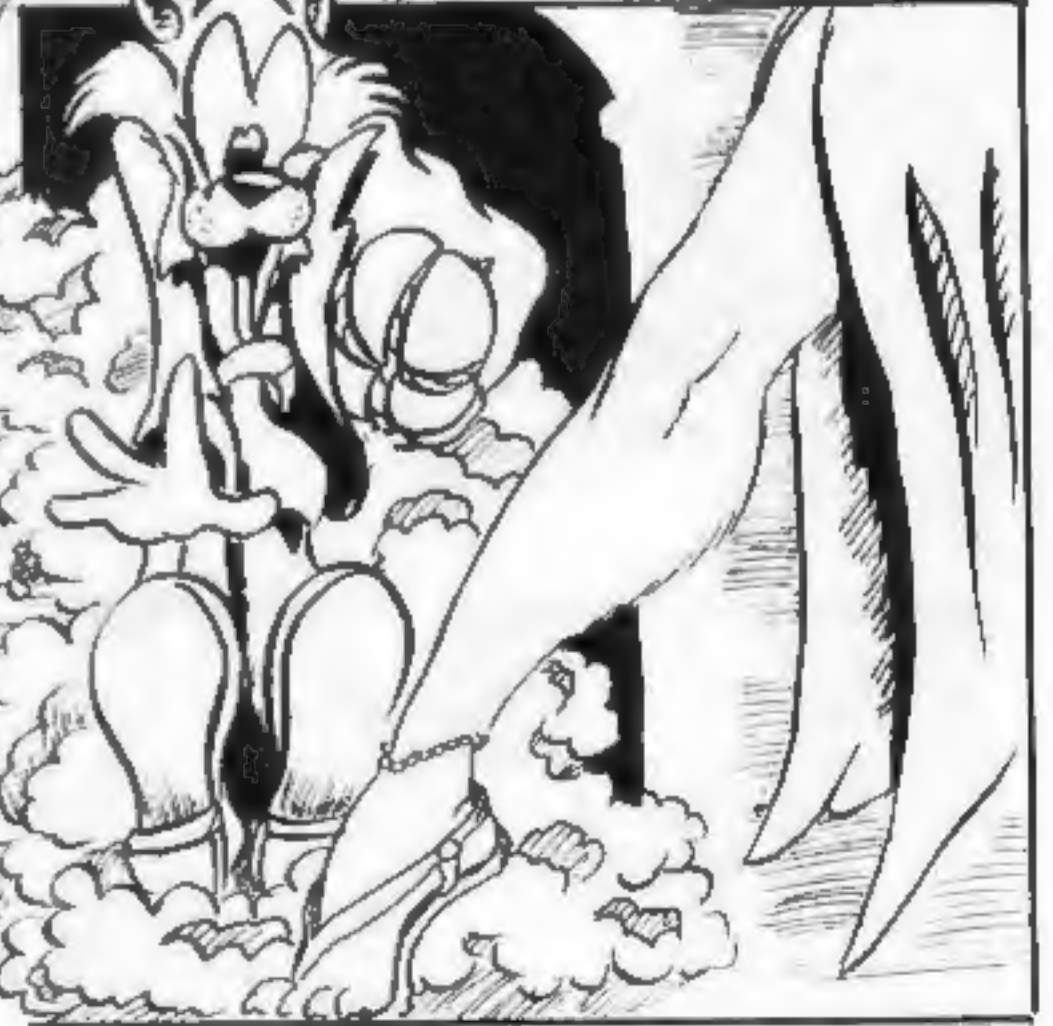
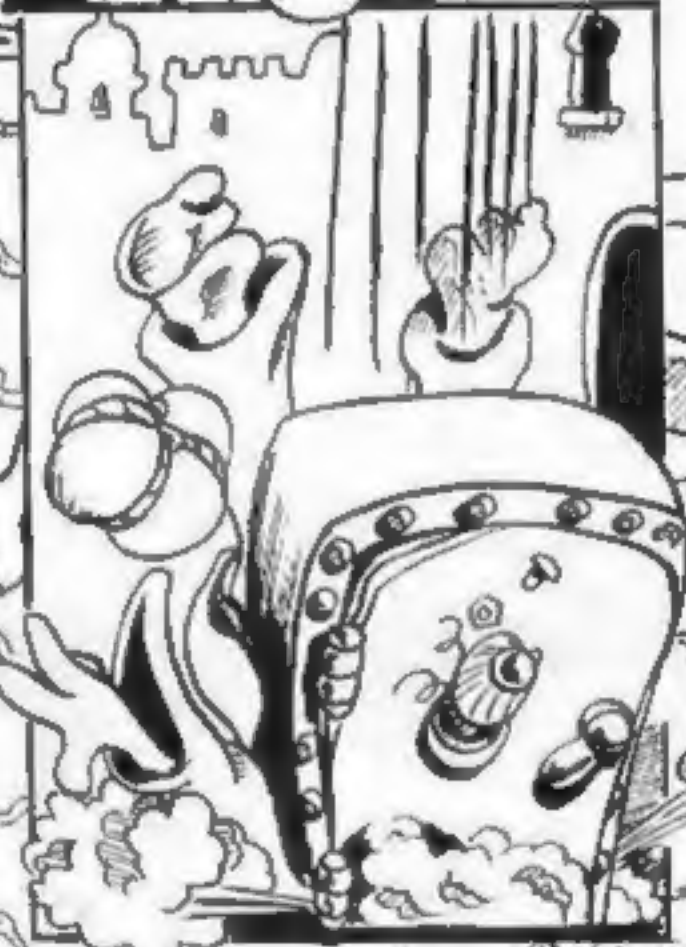
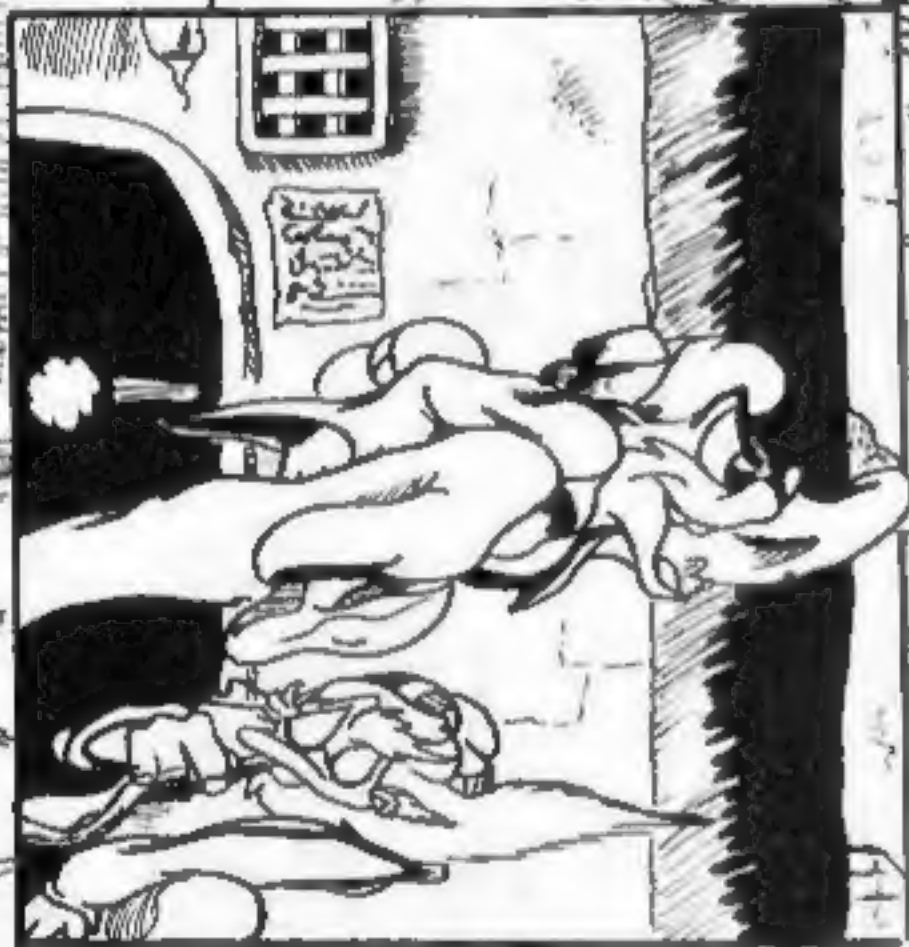




IT IS WRITTEN THAT
THE FORTUNES OF MEN
ARE AS THE SHIFTING
DESERT SANDS...

FOR, ALTHOUGH A MAN
MAY STRIVE WITH THE FURY
OF A DJINN, STILL THE
PRIZE MAY ELUDE HIS
GRASP....

SUCH, THEY SAY,
IS KISMET







OF COURSE SOMEONE SWITCHED IT YOU CHOWDER HEADS! THERE IS LITTLE **THE MOLLUSC** DOES NOT KNOW!

...POLICE HEADQUARTERS, WHERE I, **LOUIE BABA** SHALL STEAL IT BACK WHEN THEY...

..TRY TO MOVE IT YOU'LL BE THERE ON YOUR MOTORCYCLE AND.

HEY! PIPE DIS! THEY'RE MOVIN' TH' IDOL 'CROSS TOWN INNA...



KITTY MALONE HAS RECOVERED IT FROM THE OTHER THEIVES AND HAS TAKEN IT TO....



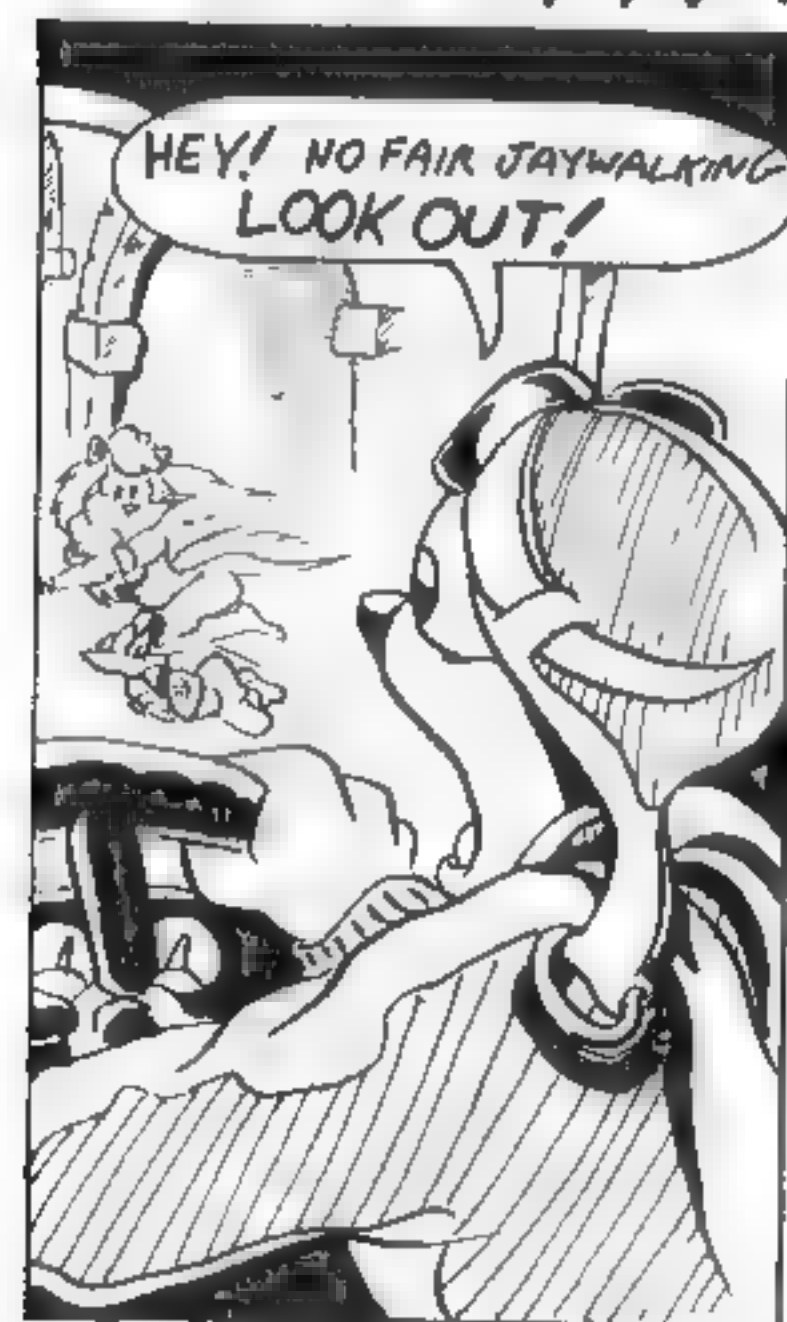
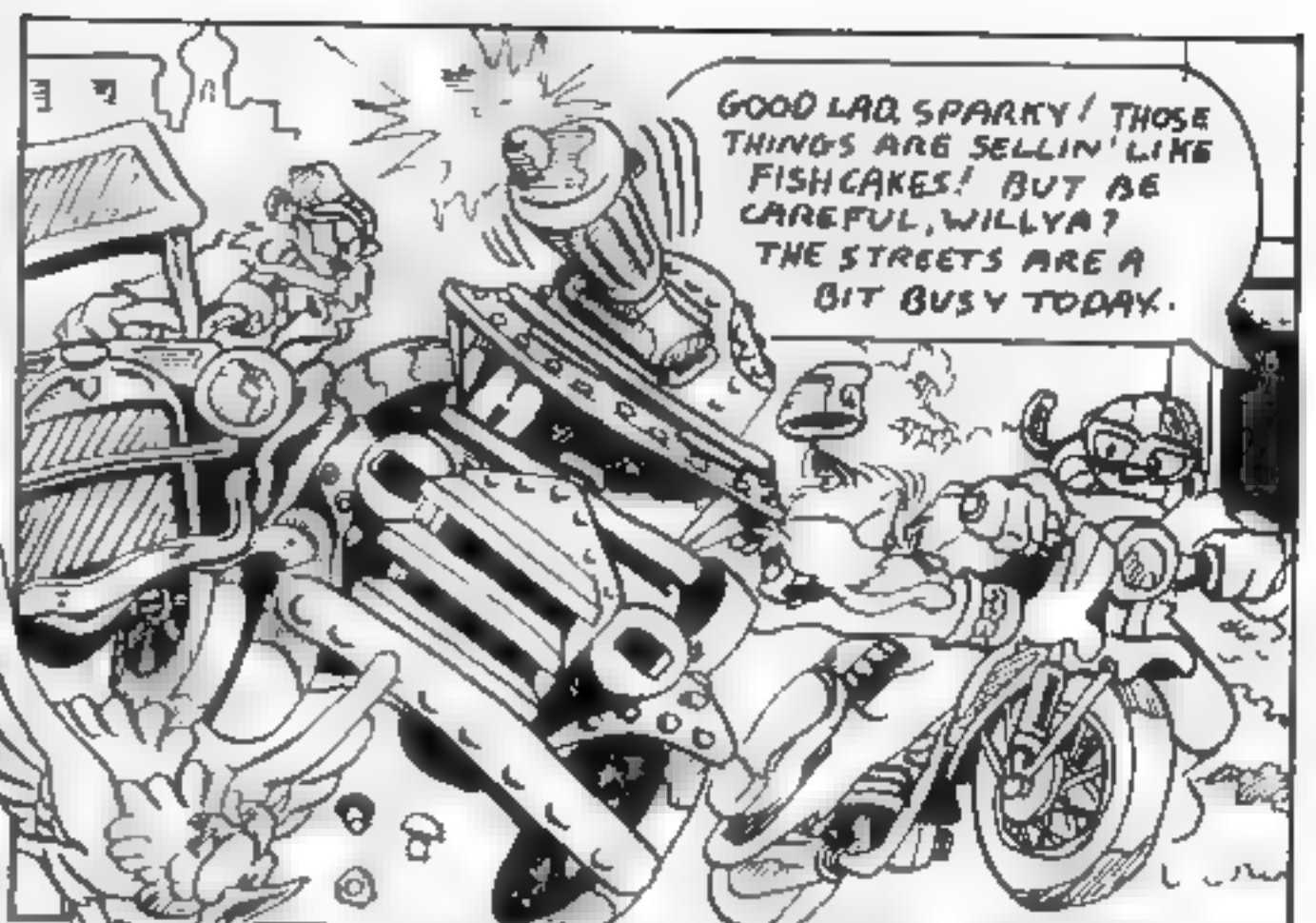
...**ARMOURD CAR**, WHILE **KITTY** AND **ALI** SNEAK THE **REAL IDOL** BACK TO THE **EMIR'S PALACE**!

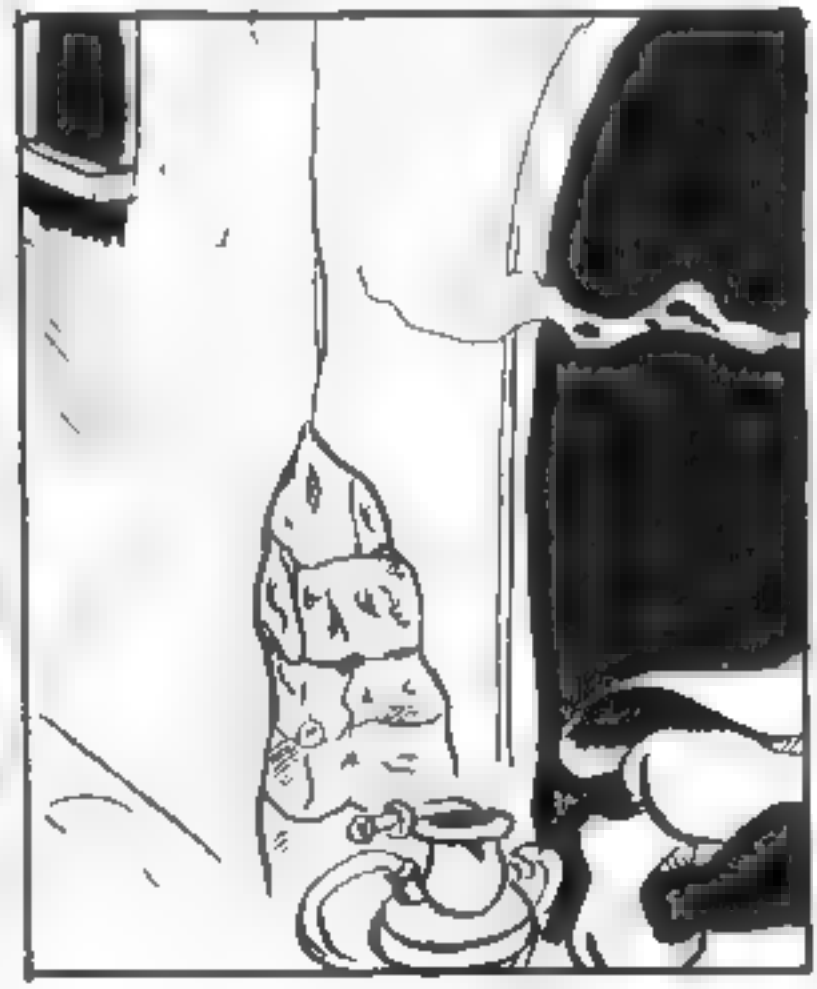
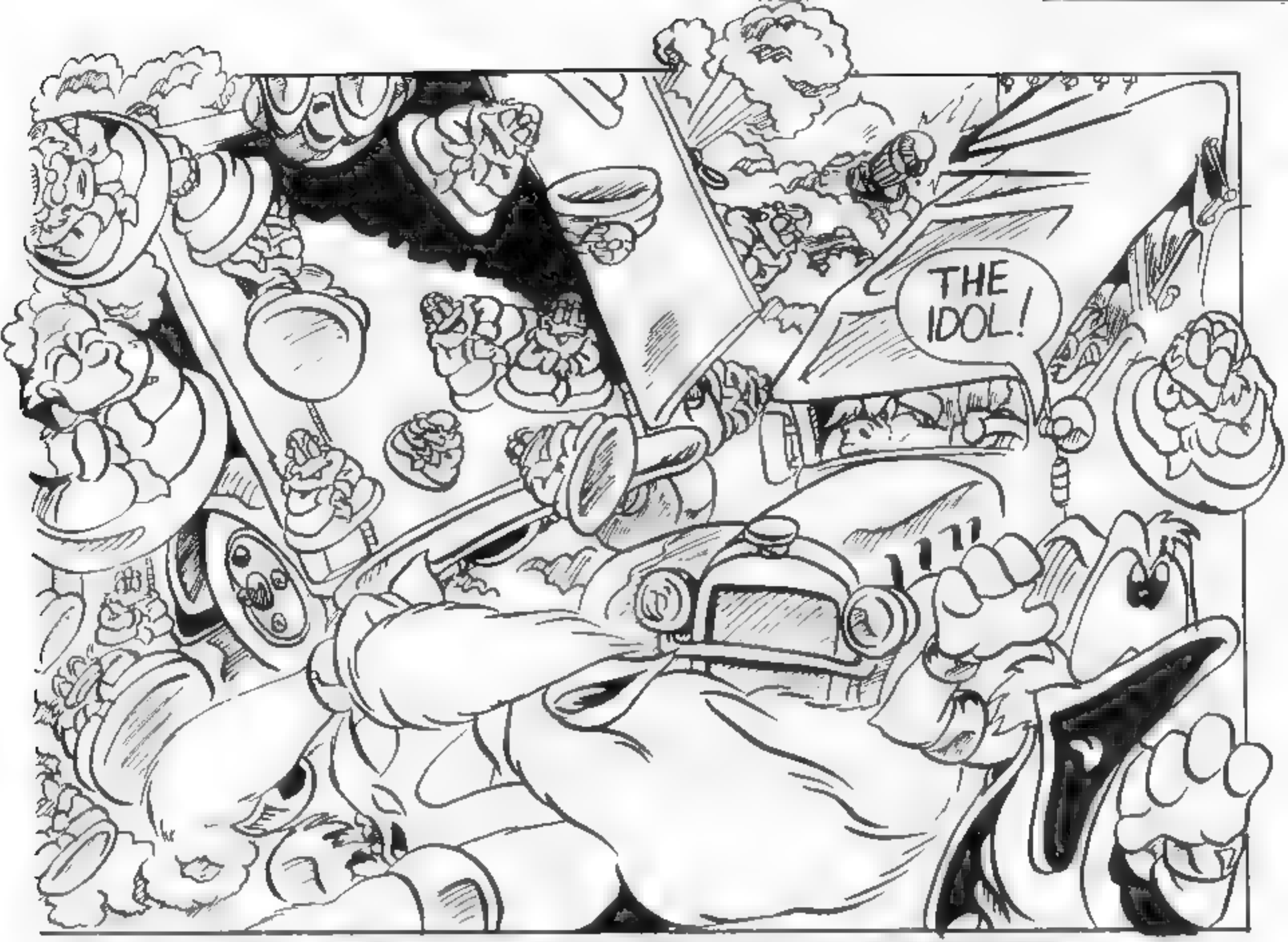
A SIMPLE RUSE, SARGENT... YET, IN THE HANDS OF A **MASTER STATAGIST**, ONE WHICH MAY BE **PROFOUNDLY**...

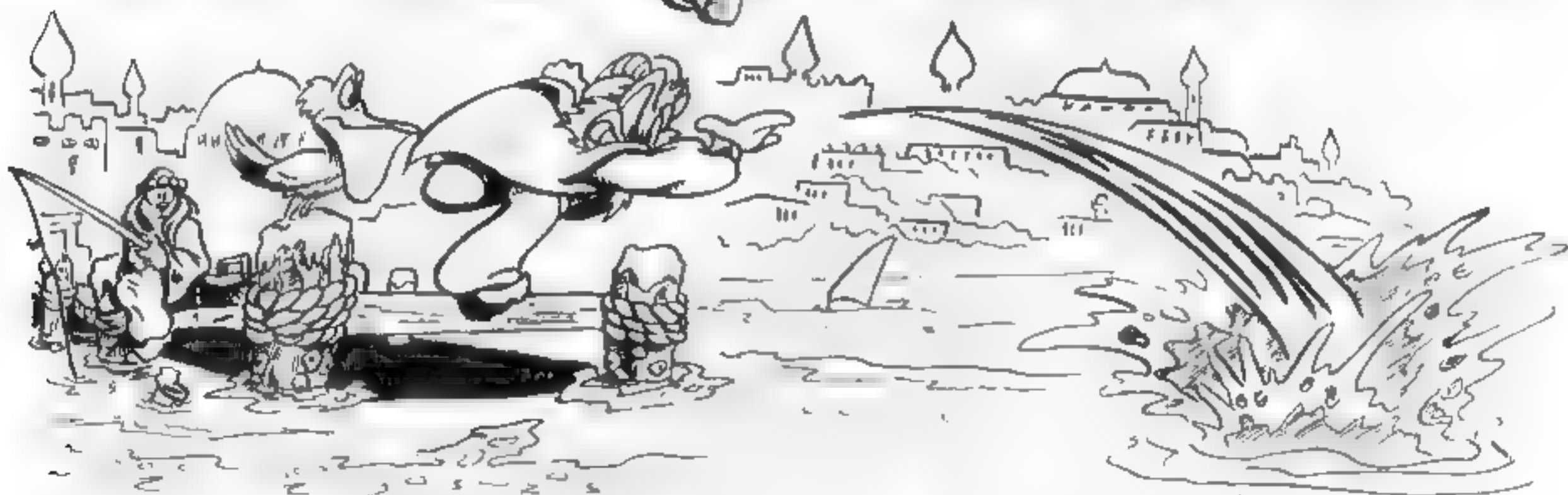
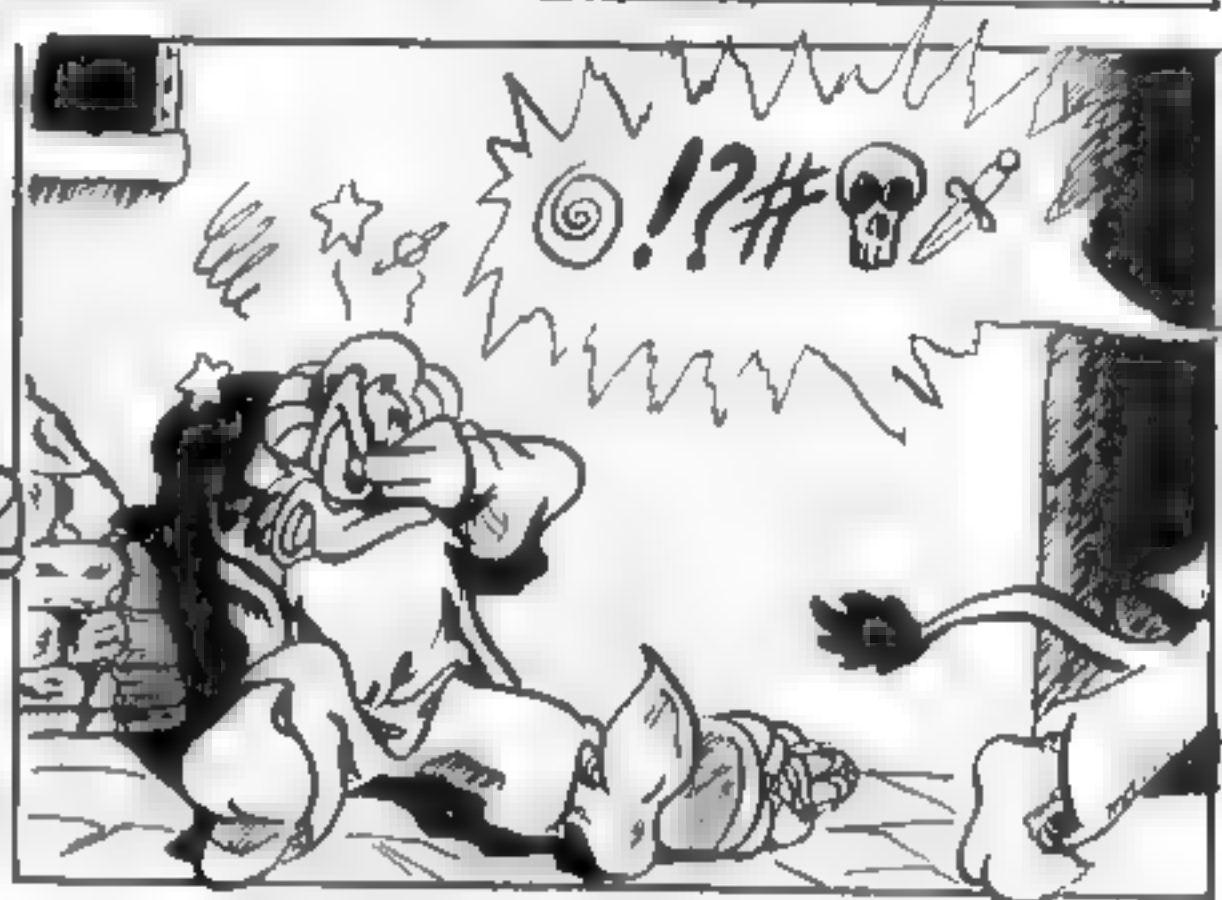
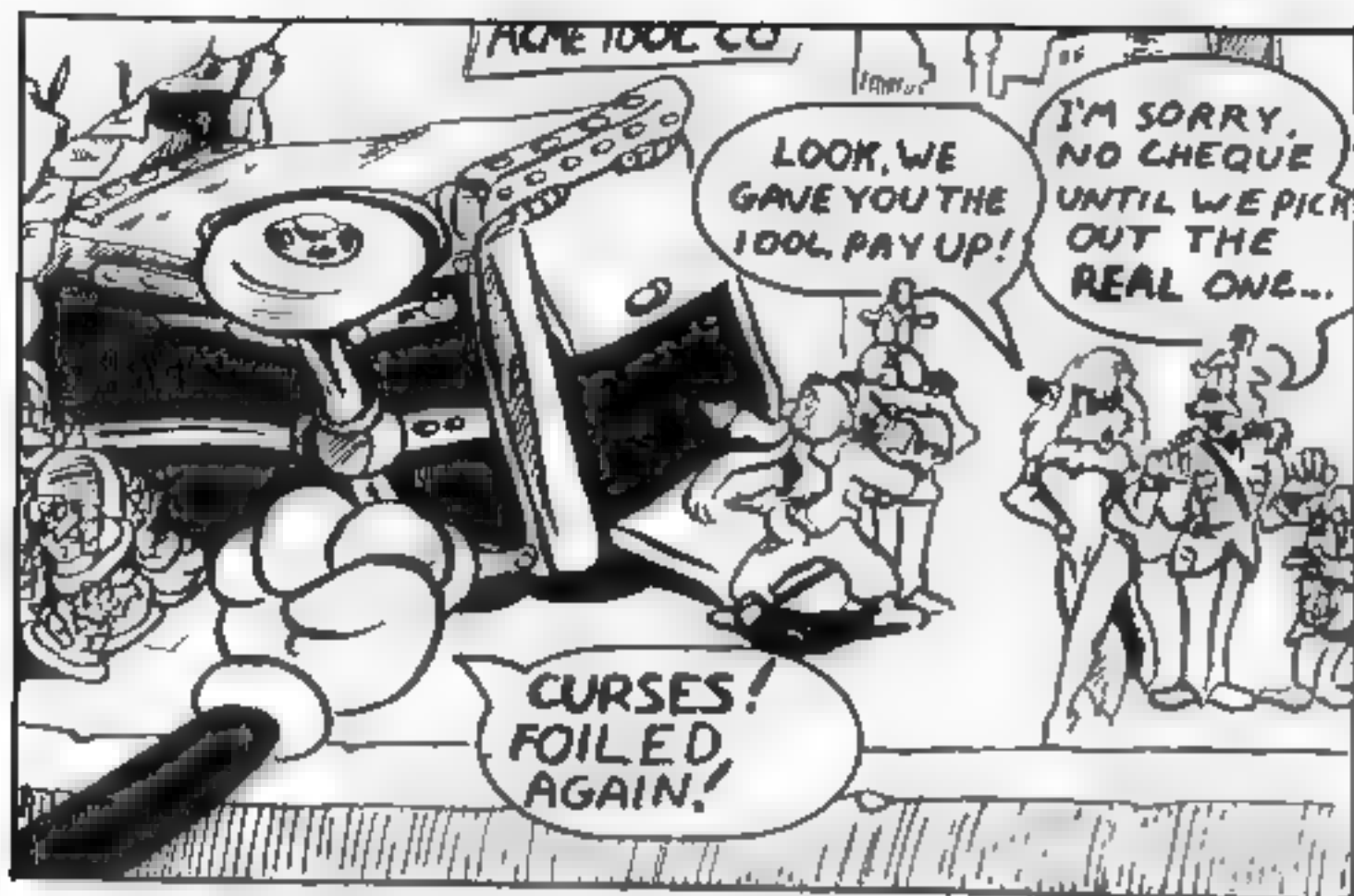


... **STUPID!** BY NOW EVERY GANG IN TOWN WILL BE LOOKING FOR US!

METHINKS, **LITTLE FLOWER**, THAT THE **ESTEEMED COLONEL** (MAY **ALLAH** STRIKE HIM) HATH PUT THE **JODY** ON US.



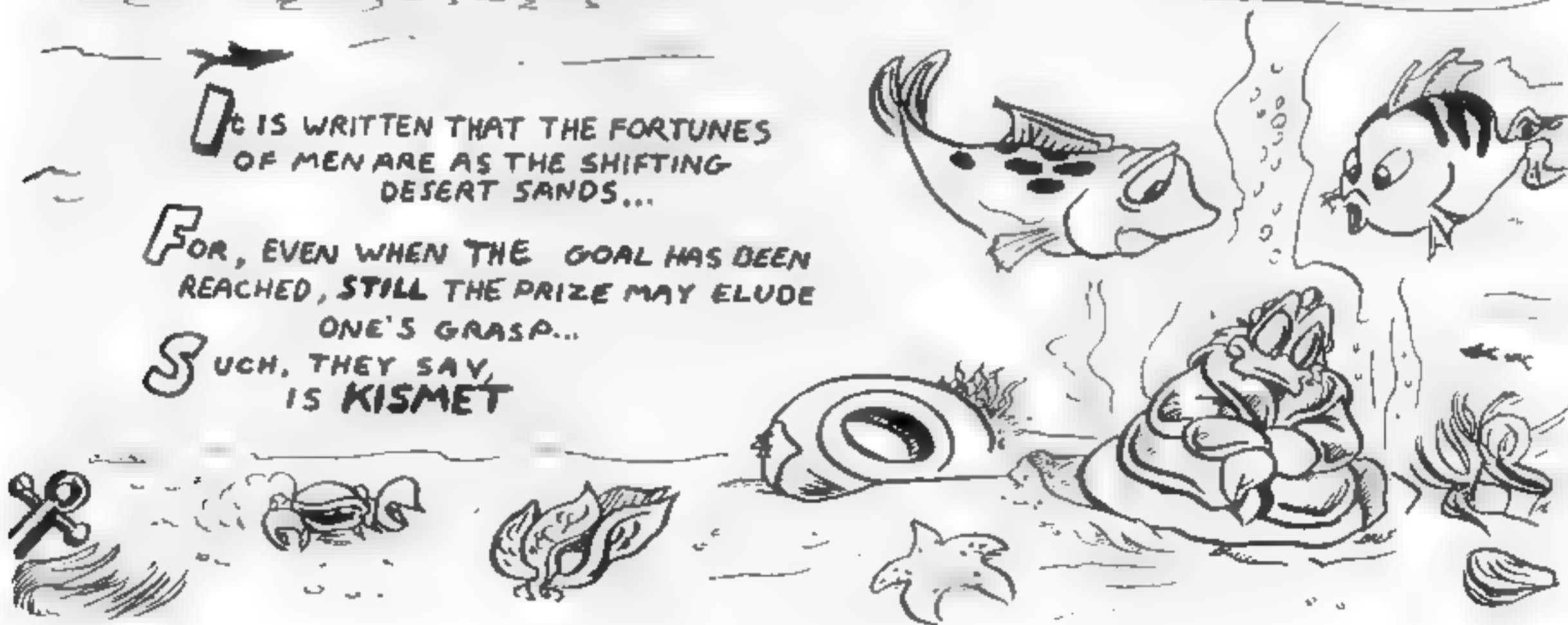




IT IS WRITTEN THAT THE FORTUNES OF MEN ARE AS THE SHIFTING DESERT SANDS...

FOR, EVEN WHEN THE GOAL HAS BEEN REACHED, STILL THE PRIZE MAY ELUDE ONE'S GRASP...

SUCH, THEY SAY, IS KISMET



J.L. COON

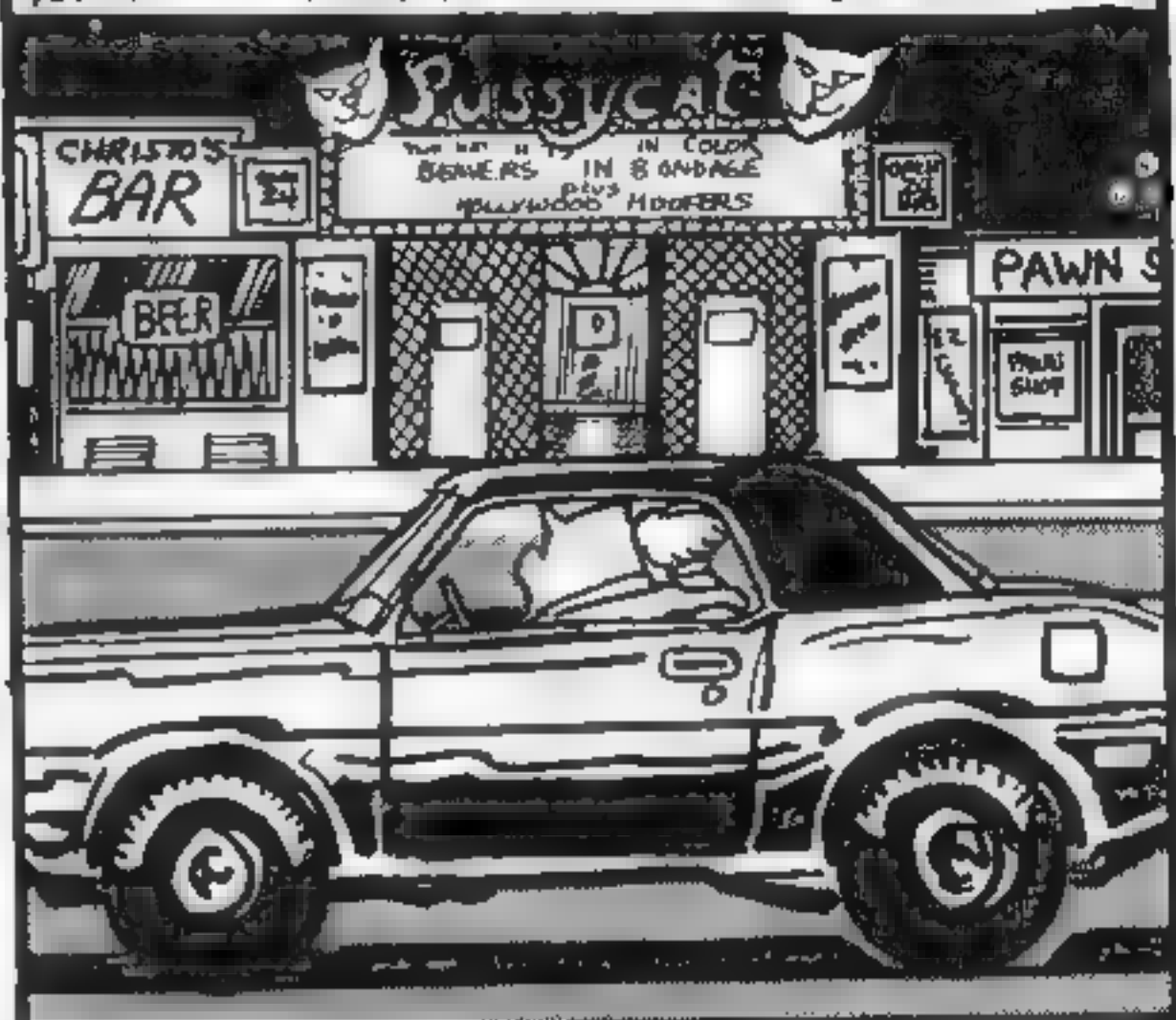
IN

"PLEASURE PALACE"

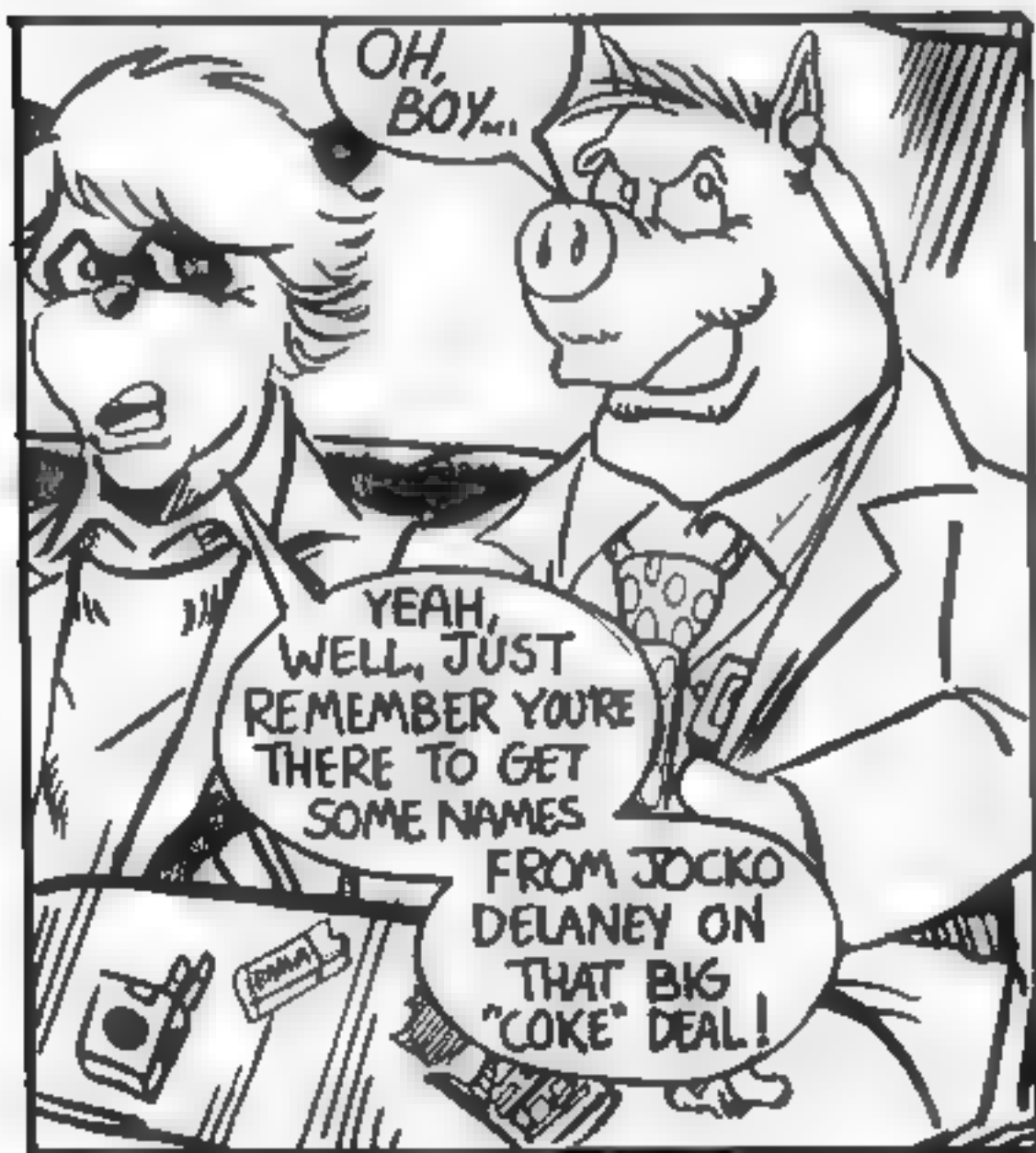
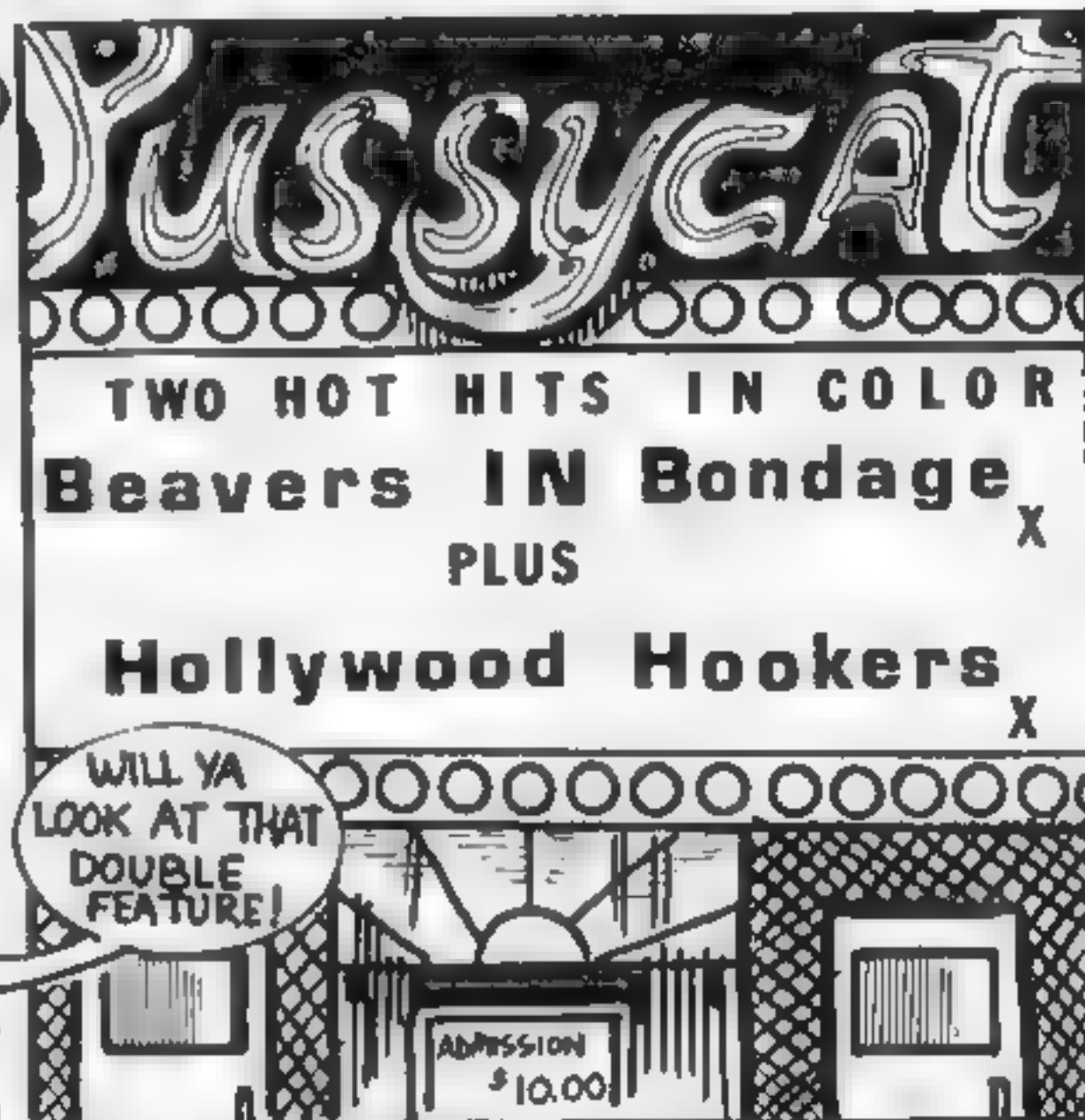
PART 1

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY
T. LINEHAN '87

WHEN I WAS A COP, I HATED STAKE-OUTS, WITH
HAVING TO WAIT IN LT. AL BOAR'S CAR...



WITH THE MASTER OF SLEEZE
HIMSELF, LT. AL BOAR !!!





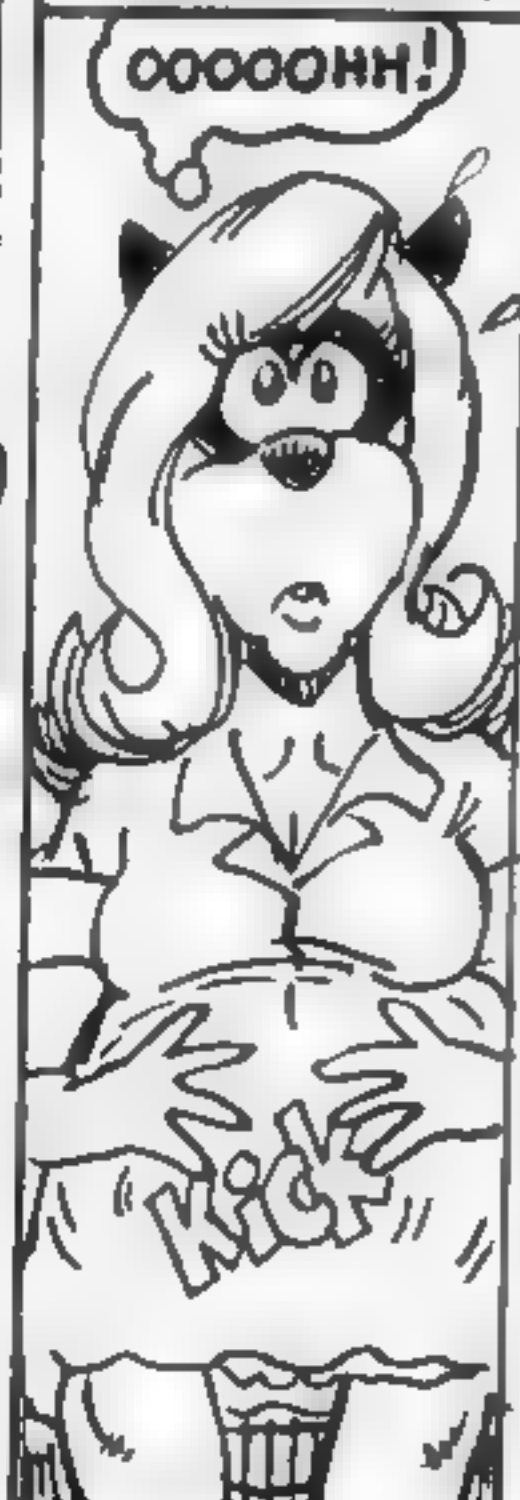
AS I LOOKED ACROSS THE STREET, I SAW AL BOAR WALK INTO THE "PUSSYCAT" CINEMA. A LONG TIME AGO, IT WAS KNOWN AS "THE UPTOWN", BUT IT WAS MORE THAN A MOVIE THEATRE, IT WAS A PLEASURE PALACE, FILLED WITH LAUGHS, THRILLS AND EXOTIC PLACES THAT YOU COULD VISIT AGAIN AND AGAIN ...



JUST AS MY PARENTS DID, EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT.



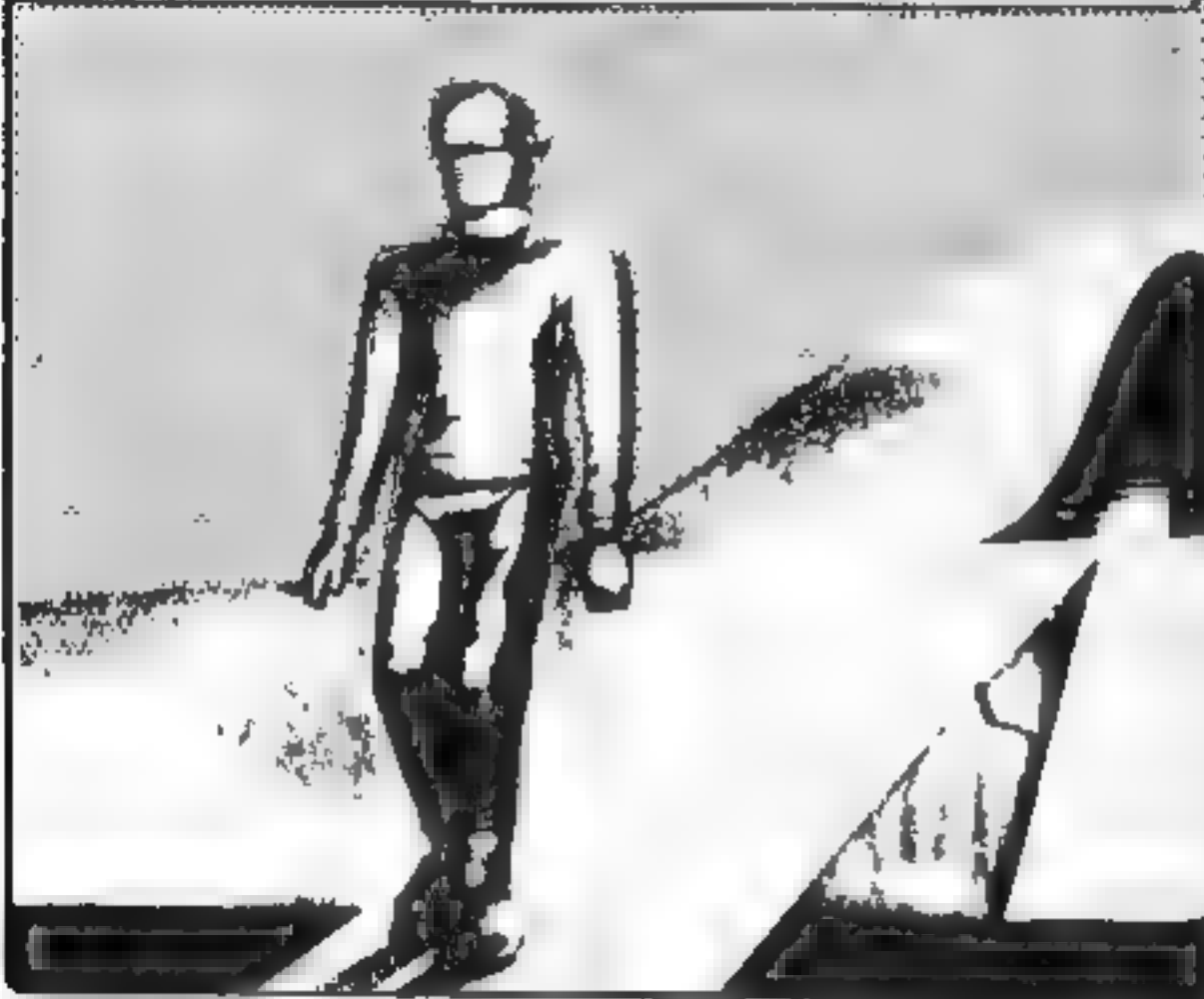
MY MOM TOLD ME THAT I WAS ALMOST BORN AT "THE UPTOWN"!



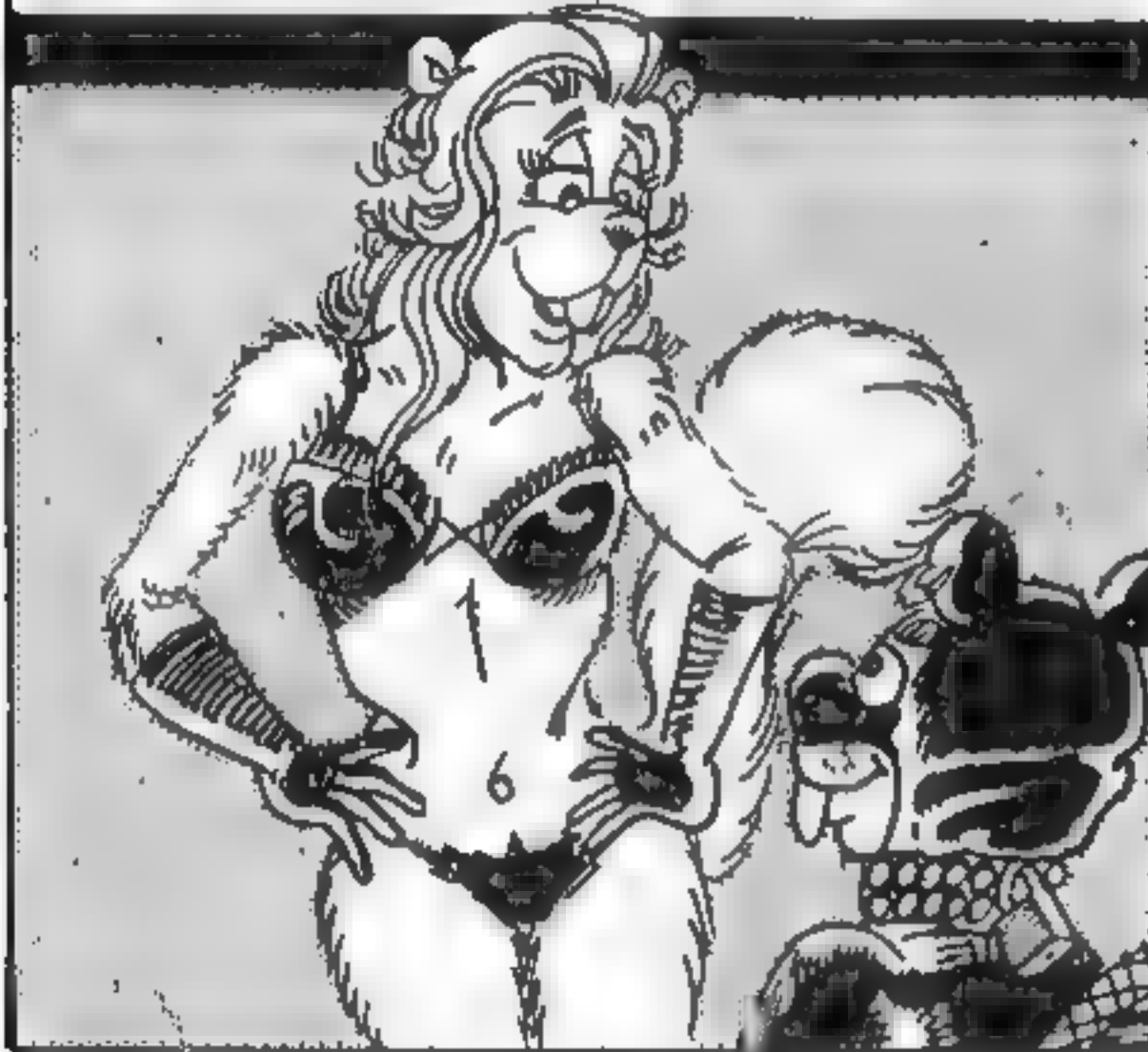
IT WAS DURING A SHOWING OF "HOUDINI", THAT GAVE ME SOME OF MY OWN IDEAS ABOUT ESCAPING, SO TO SPEAK!!!



NOT ONLY WERE YOU ENTERTAINED BUT YOU WERE ABLE TO TAKE SHELTER AGAINST THE BIG BAD WORLD OUTSIDE, WHILE YOU DEVELOPED A TASTE FOR FILM RANGING FROM THE SOPHISTICATED



...TO THE SUBLIMED, EXPLORING FEELINGS YOU NEVER KNEW THAT YOU HAD BEFORE.



WHILE INDULGING MYSELF IN THE TRUE GENUISES OF THE WORLD OF CINEMA



I REMEMBER STANDING IN LINE, AT THE KIDDIE MATINEE, WAITING TO GET INSIDE...



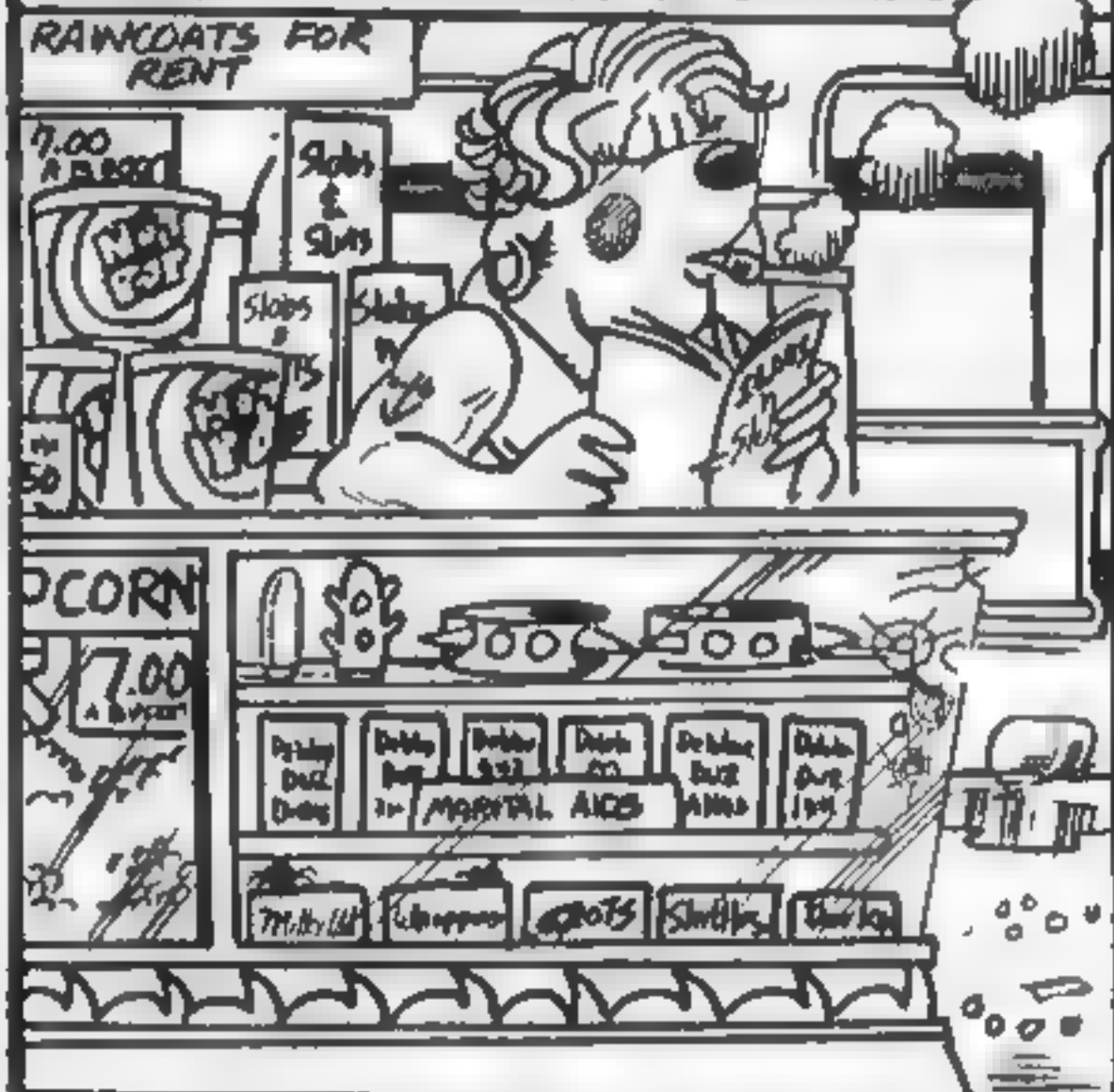
...RUSHING TO FIND A GOOD SEAT, BEFORE THEY WERE ALL GONE.



Oh, AND THAT CONCESSION STAND IN THE LOBBY



... FILLED WITH ALL KINDS OF SURPRISES!



AND MR. McCABE, THE OWNER, GREETING YOU AS IF YOU CAME INTO HIS HOME...



AND ALWAYS MAKING SURE YOU, HIS GUEST, WERE PROPERLY ENTERTAINED.



I CAME BACK FROM DREAMLAND ONLY TO BE GREETED BY THE MOST EXPENSIVE PIECE OF TAIL ON THE STREET...MISS MAGENTA RED!



WHERE THE HELL WERE YOU? JOCKO'S BEEN WAITING FOR A HALF AN HOUR, NOW!



"WHERE?"

"HE'S IN 'THE PUSSYCAT'S' MEN ROOM. WAITING



SOMETHING WAS WRONG! WHY WOULD "JOCKO" SEND OUT HIS PRIZED HOOKER AS A MESSENGER? HEAVEN FORBID!!! DAMN! AND WHERE WAS "BOAR"?

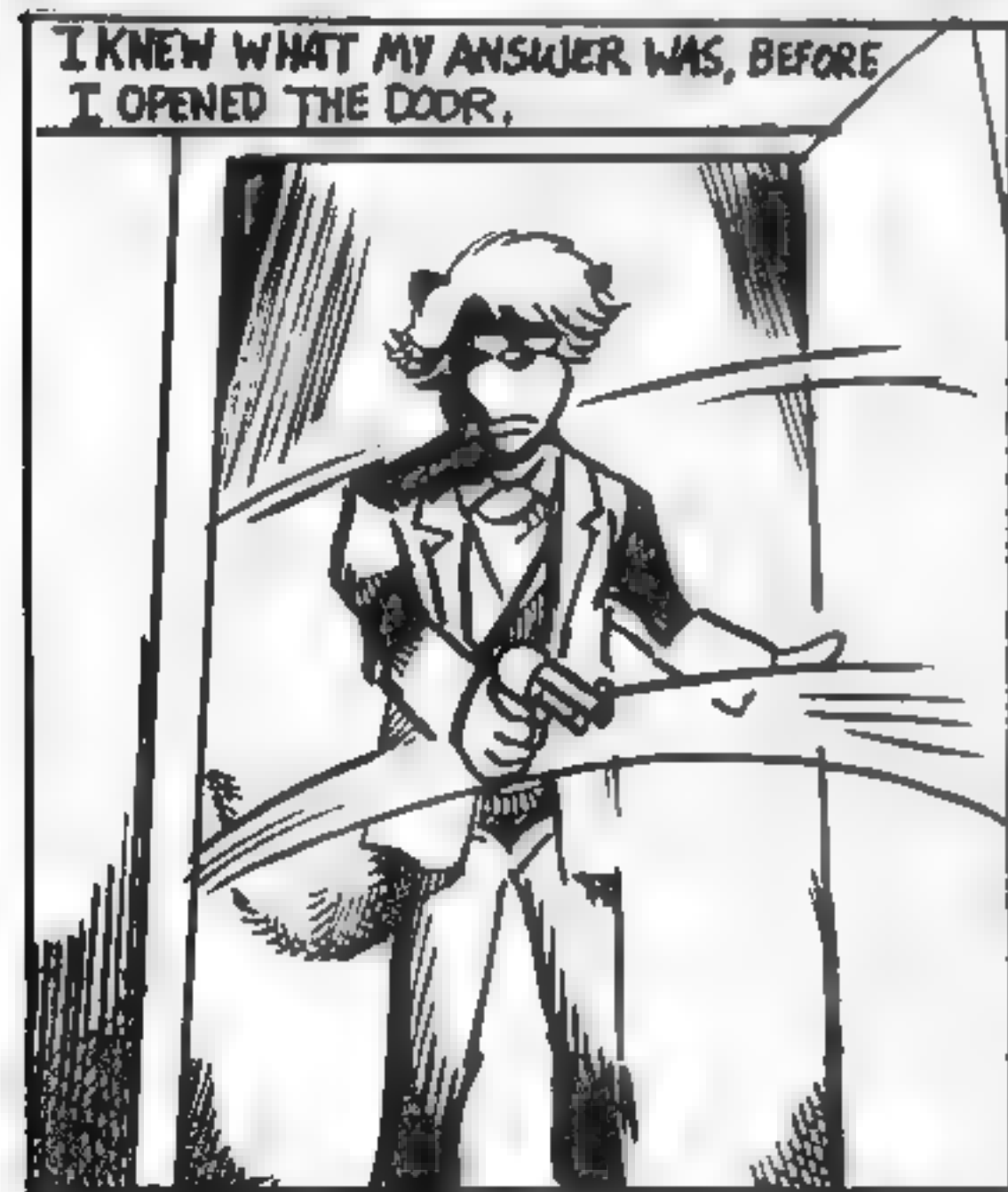


IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT HURTS OR FEELS GOOD, AS LONG AS THEY PAY FOR THE GOODS.



JOCKO DELANEY NEVER CARED IF IT WAS DRUGS, FRESH OR "HOT". JUST AS LONG AS A DEAL CAN BE MADE AND CASH PASSED THROUGH HIS HANDS, HE WAS HAPPY!

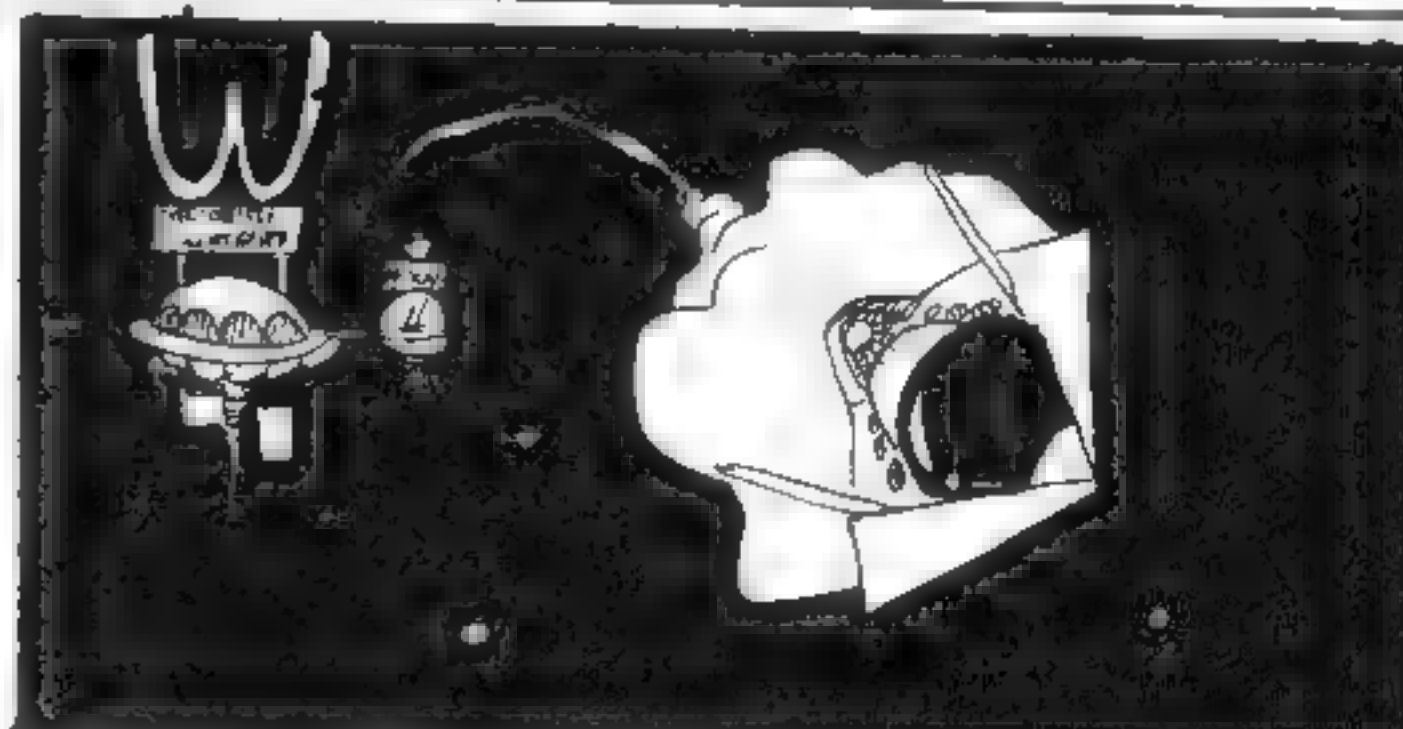
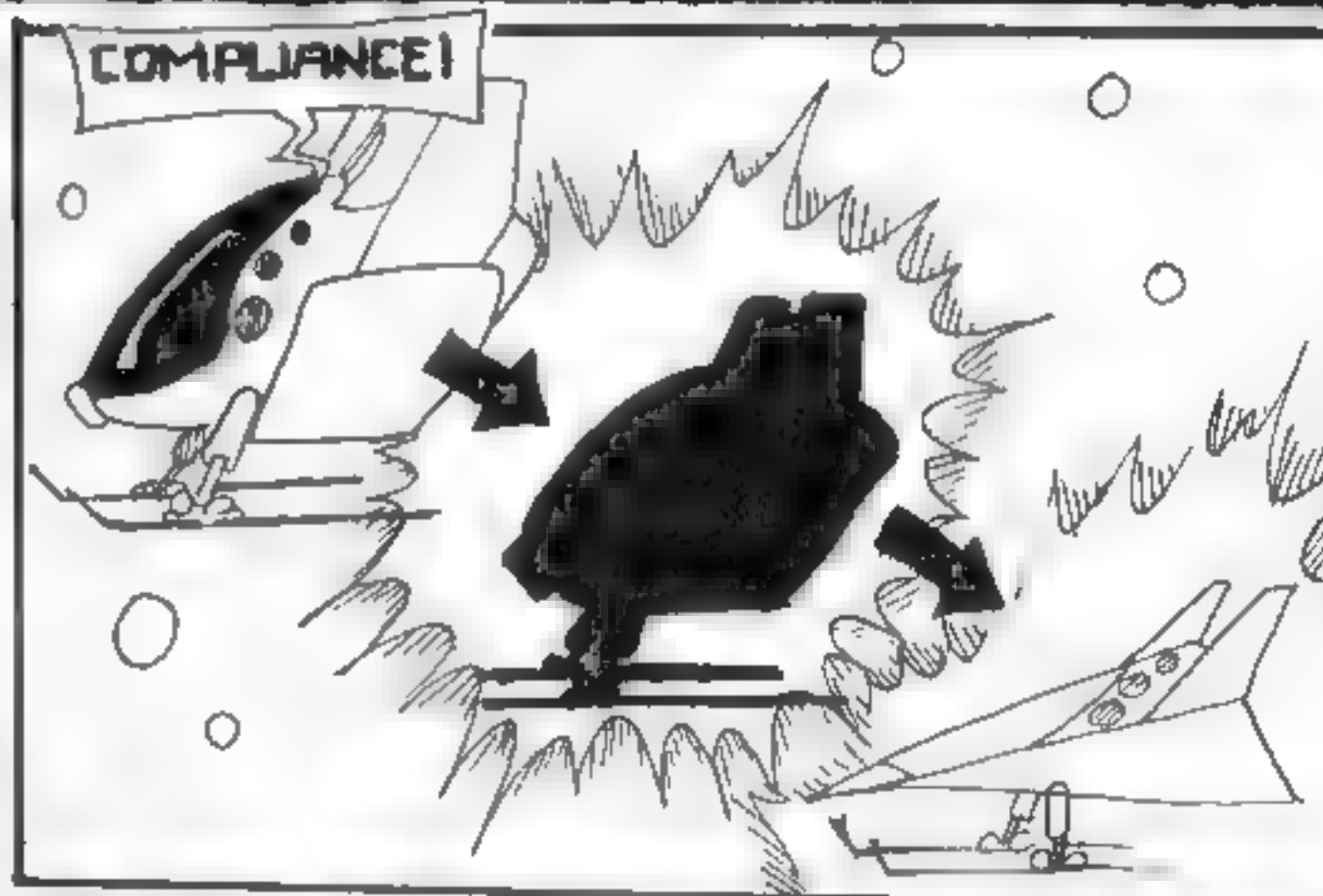
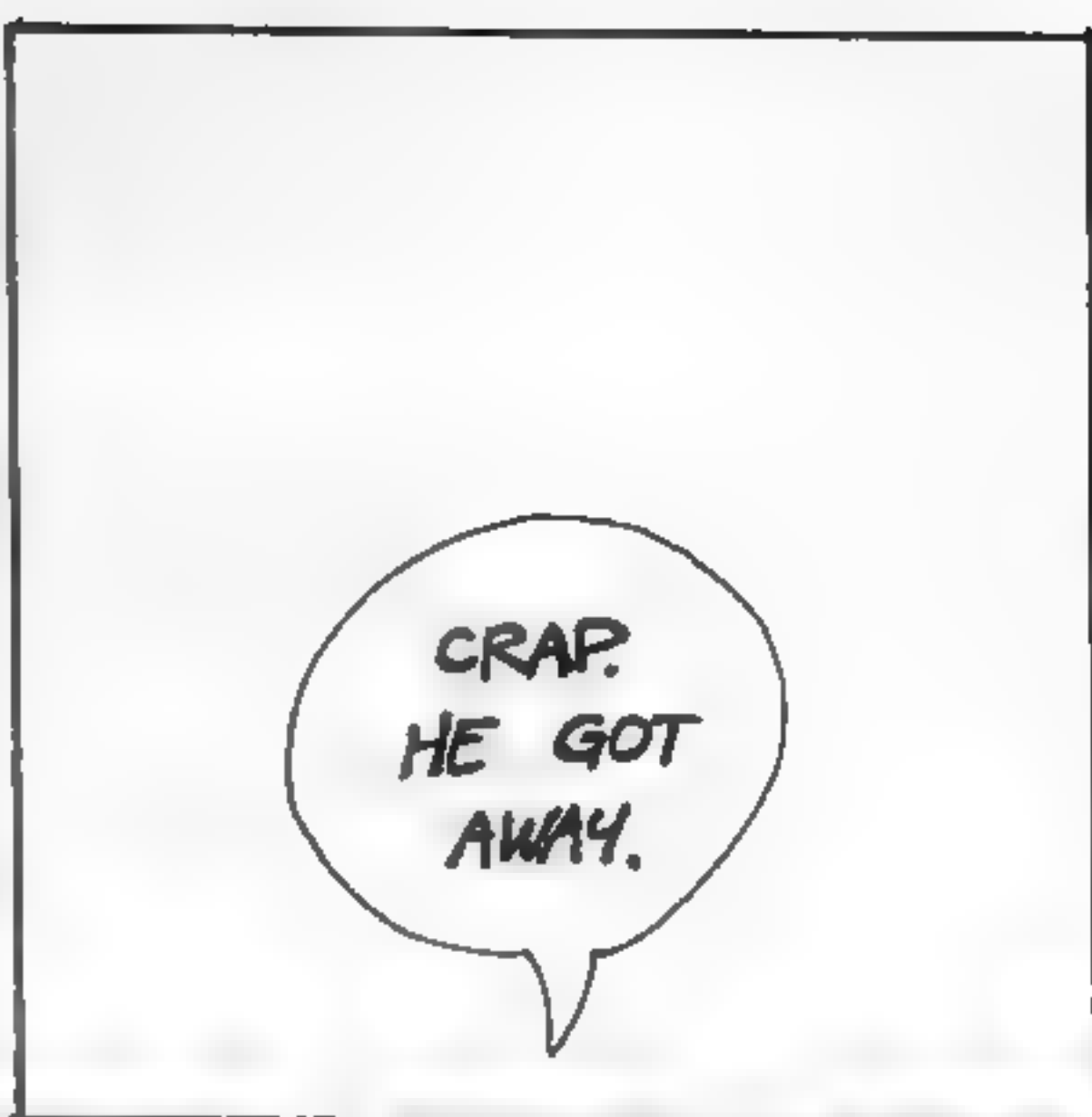




END of PART 1

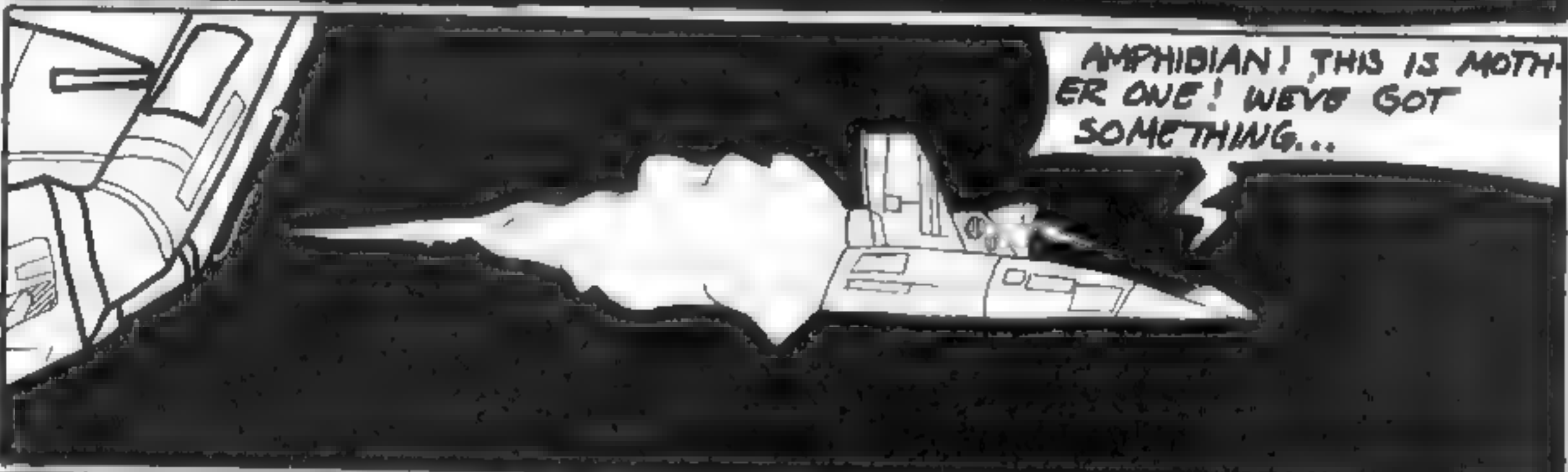
Star Lizard



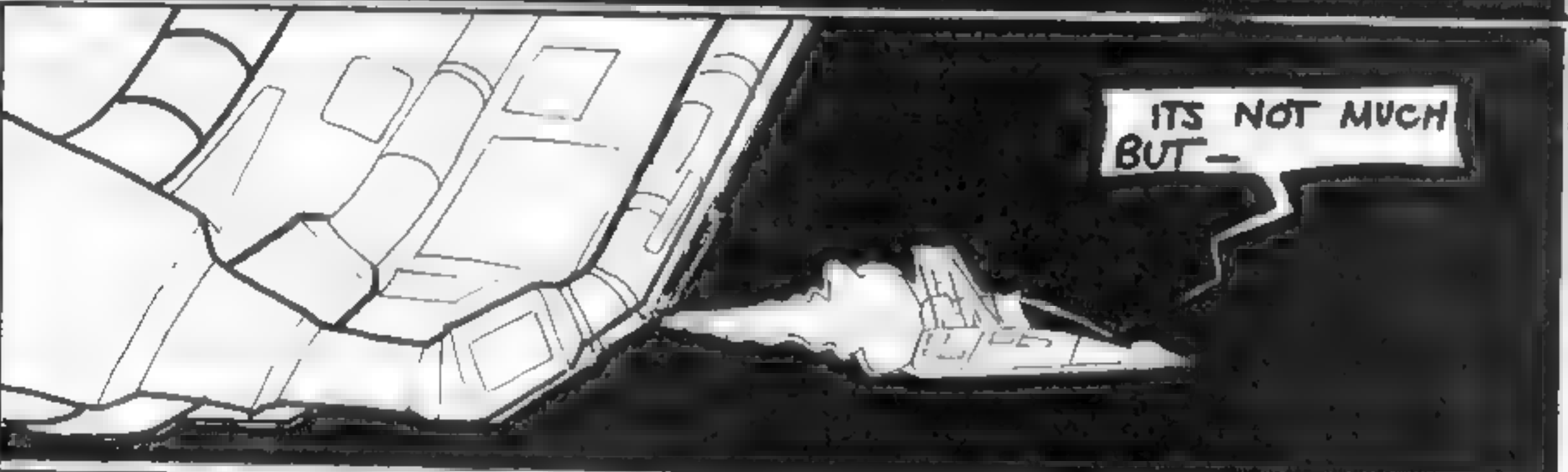




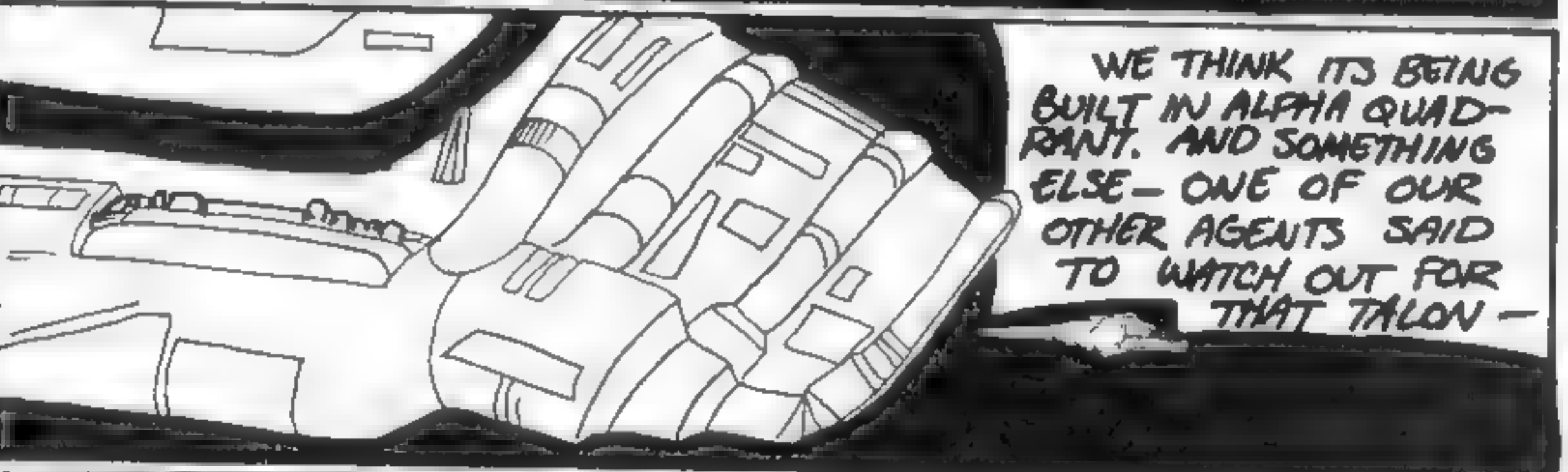
C'MON MOTHER ONE! TALK
TO ME! I NEED TO KNOW
HOW TO GET TO THIS BASE!
ANYBODY GOT ANY IDEAS?



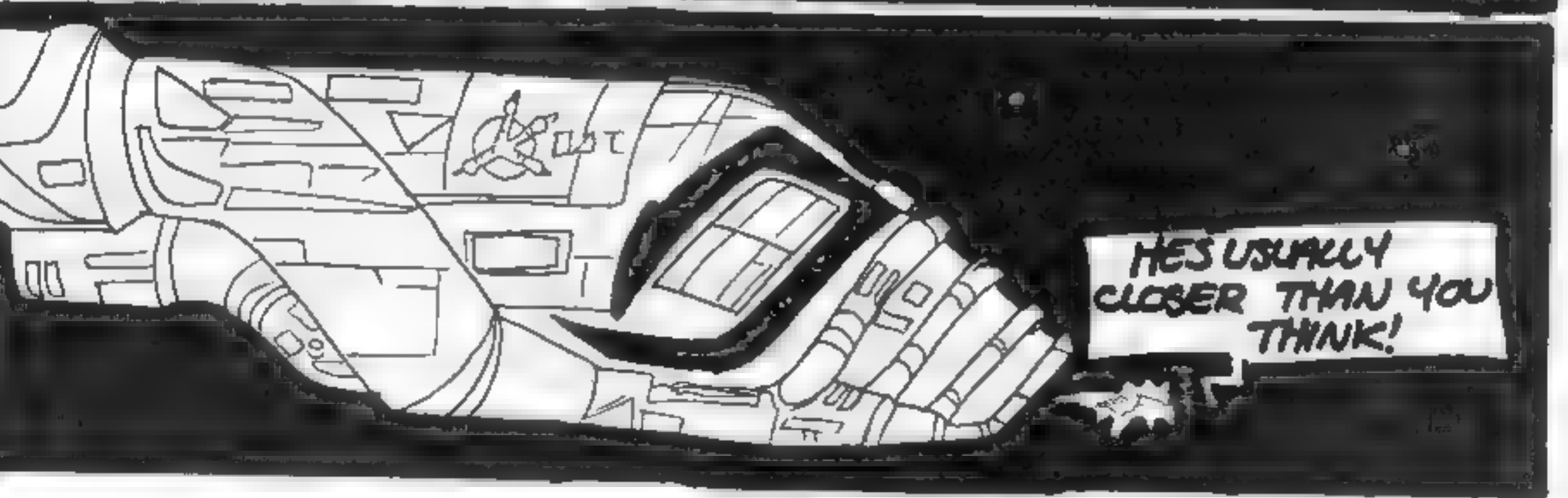
AMPHIBIAN! THIS IS MOTH-
ER ONE! WE'VE GOT
SOMETHING...



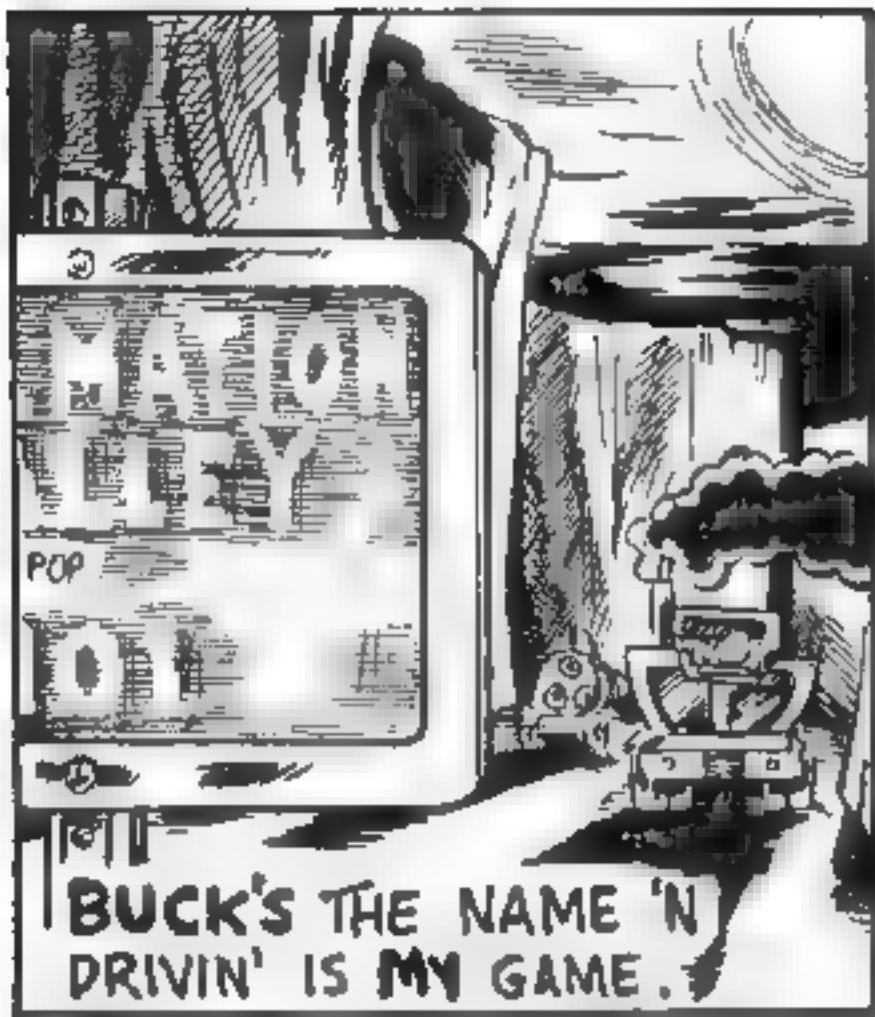
ITS NOT MUCH
BUT -



WE THINK ITS BEING
BUILT IN ALPHA QUAD-
RANT. AND SOMETHING
ELSE - ONE OF OUR
OTHER AGENTS SAID
TO WATCH OUT FOR
THAT TALON -



HES USUALLY
CLOSER THAN YOU
THINK!



PUNK MUTANTS

ON CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

©1987

VS.

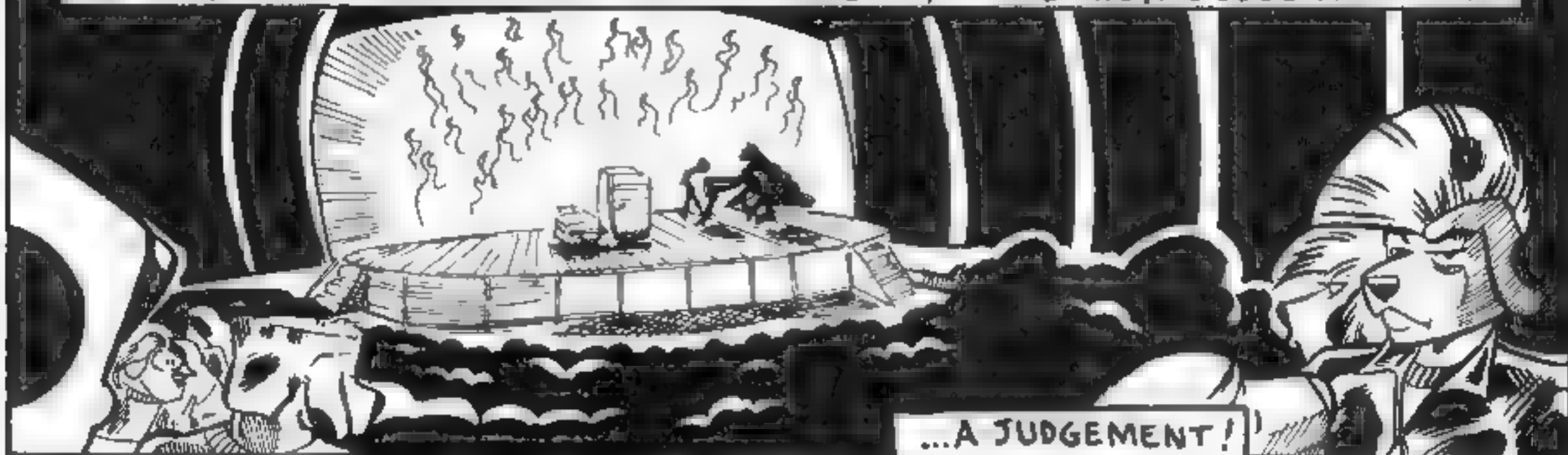
DALMATION ALLEY

PART II

STORY & ART: DE MURPHY INKS: ROBERT MOSSACK



THE DALMATION'S MEETING HALL. WHAT'S GOING ON, A MEETING, AN ELECTION? NO...



THESE ARE THE NON-BELIEVERS, THEY HAVE BLASPHEMED!! PAM AND TIMMY, PLEAD YOUR CASE!!



DON'T YOU MORONS SEE?! YOU'VE BEEN WORSHIPPING A GEEZER FROZEN UP IN A KELVINATOR FOR 263 YEARS!! YOU SHOULD BE WORSHIPPING US! WE'RE PERFECT FOR THE JOB, WE'RE CUTE AND GREEDY!!



YOU HAVE HEARD THE PLEA, WHAT IS YER DECISION?



TAXI!



SORRY FOLKS, IT'S PUNISHMENT TIME!



AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

INTO THE FIRE!



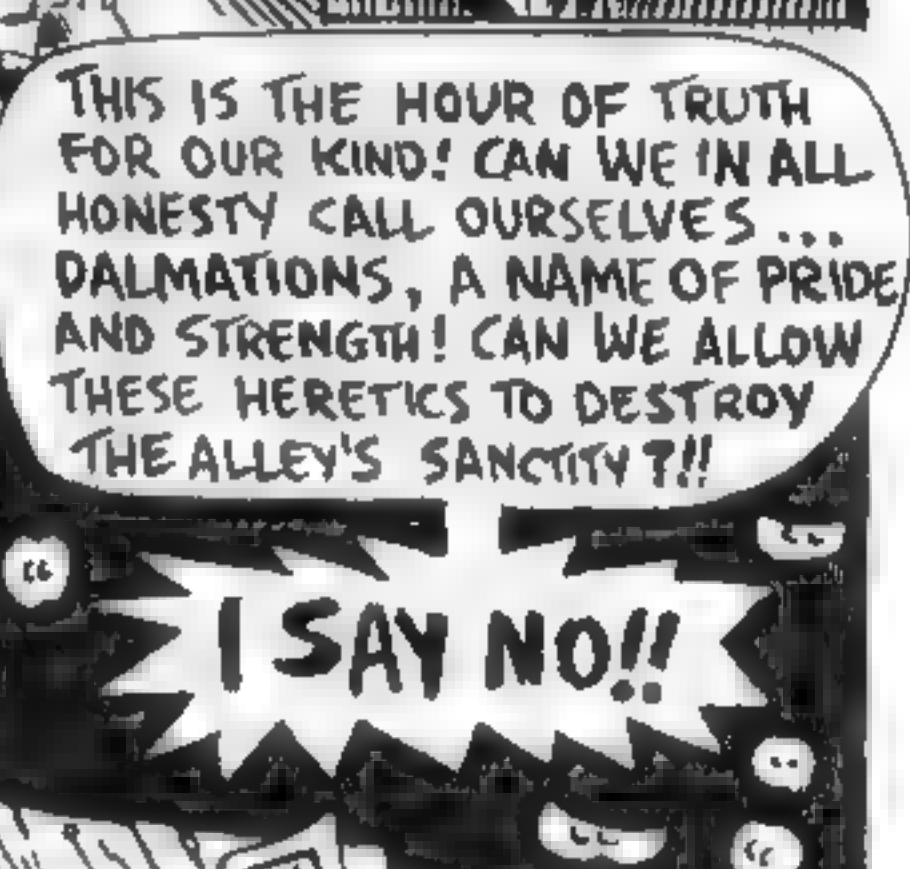
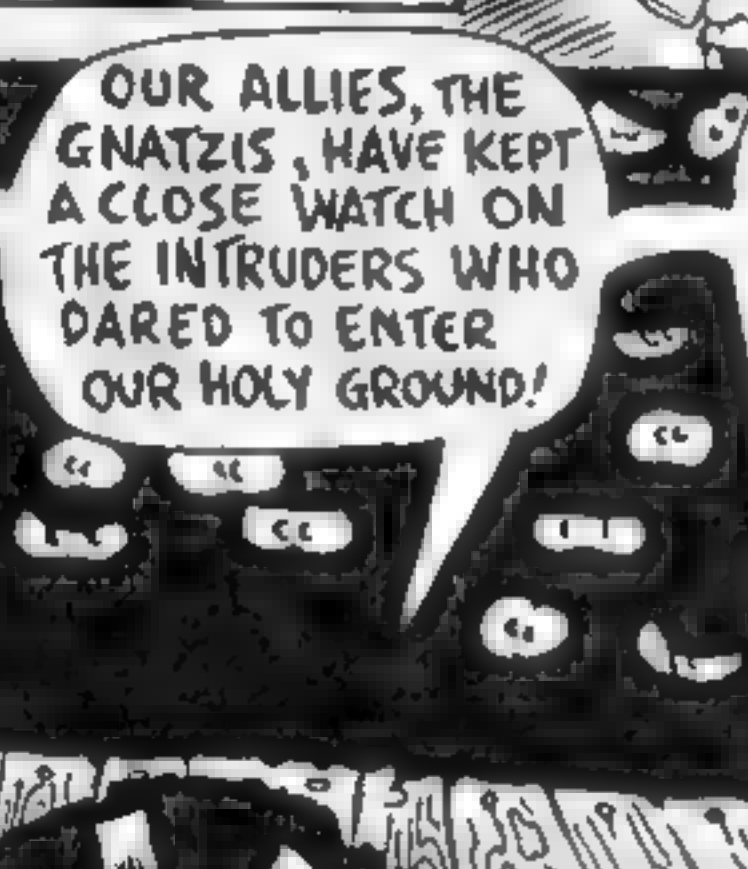
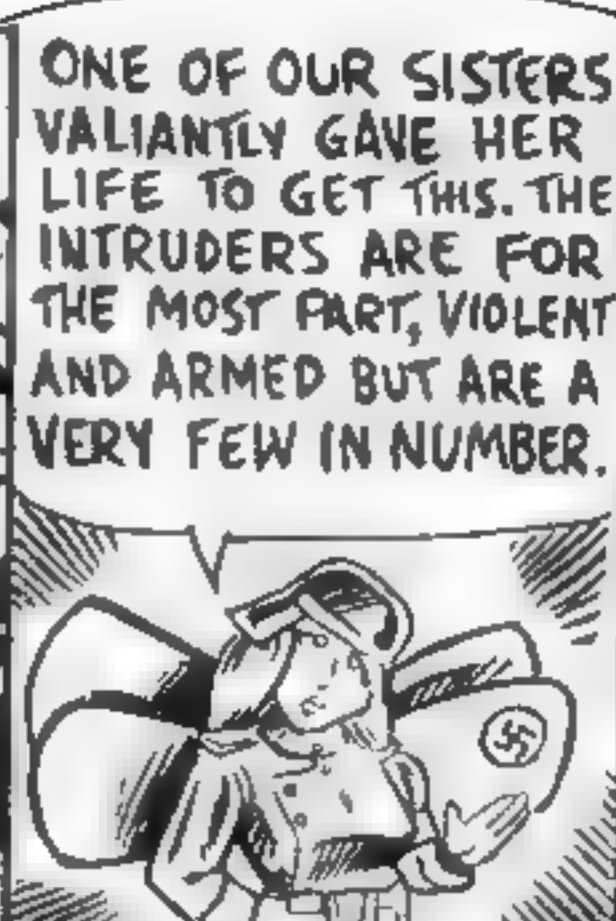
AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR...

OOOCCA BOOGA

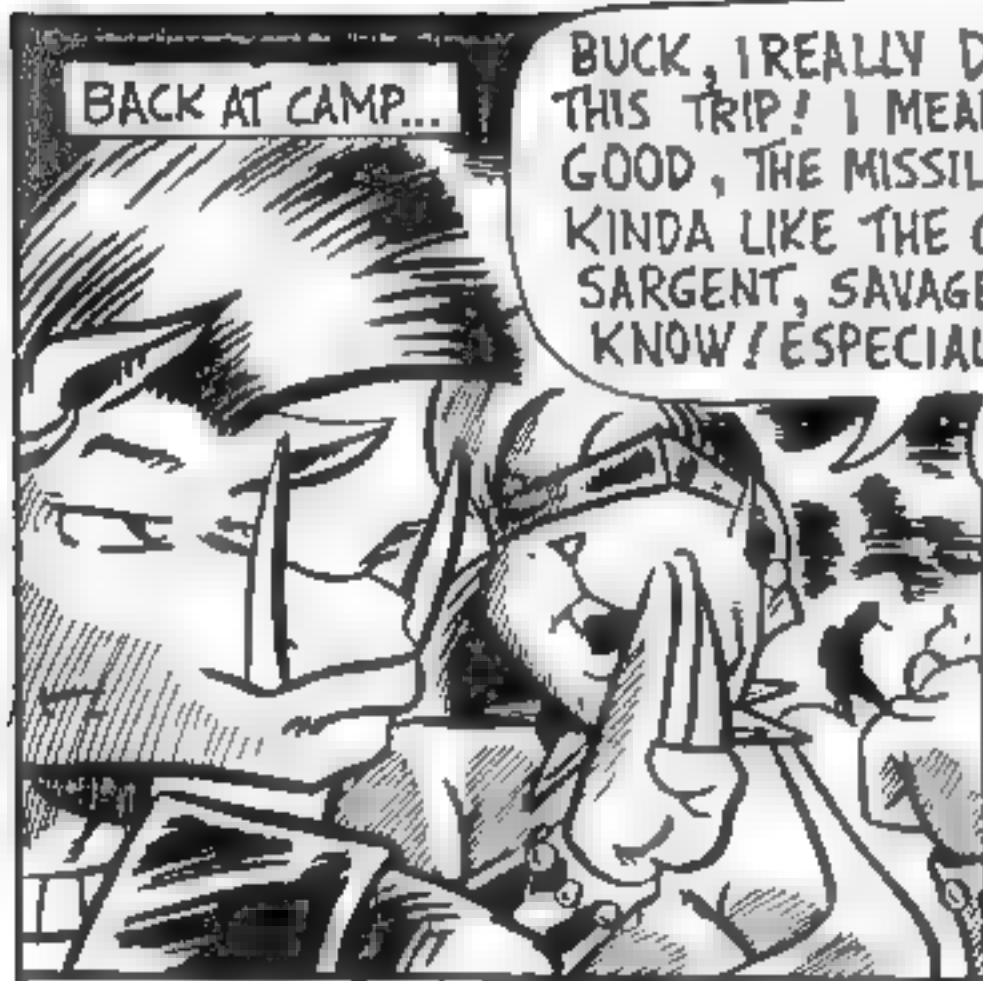


AIN'T BEING A MINDLESS ZEALOT WUNNERFUL, IT TAKES ALL THAT NASTY THINKING OUTTA YOUR LIFE!

WHATT A RUSH!



DISSOLVE TO...



BACK AT CAMP...

BUCK, I REALLY DON'T KNOW 'BOUT THIS TRIP! I MEAN THE MONEY IS GOOD, THE MISSILE IS GREAT, AND I KINDA LIKE THE COLONEL. IT'S THAT SARGENT, SAVAGE, HE BUGS ME, YA KNOW! ESPECIALLY WITH THAT QUIET ATTITUDE AND BOOZE



GEE CHERRIES I UH...

SHUT UP BUCKY!



SAVAGE, FRONT AND CENTER! NOW WHERE'S THAT CONTROL BOX? I NEED TO KNOW FOR MY DAILY PROGRESS AND STATUS REPORT.

RIGHT HERE COLONEL.



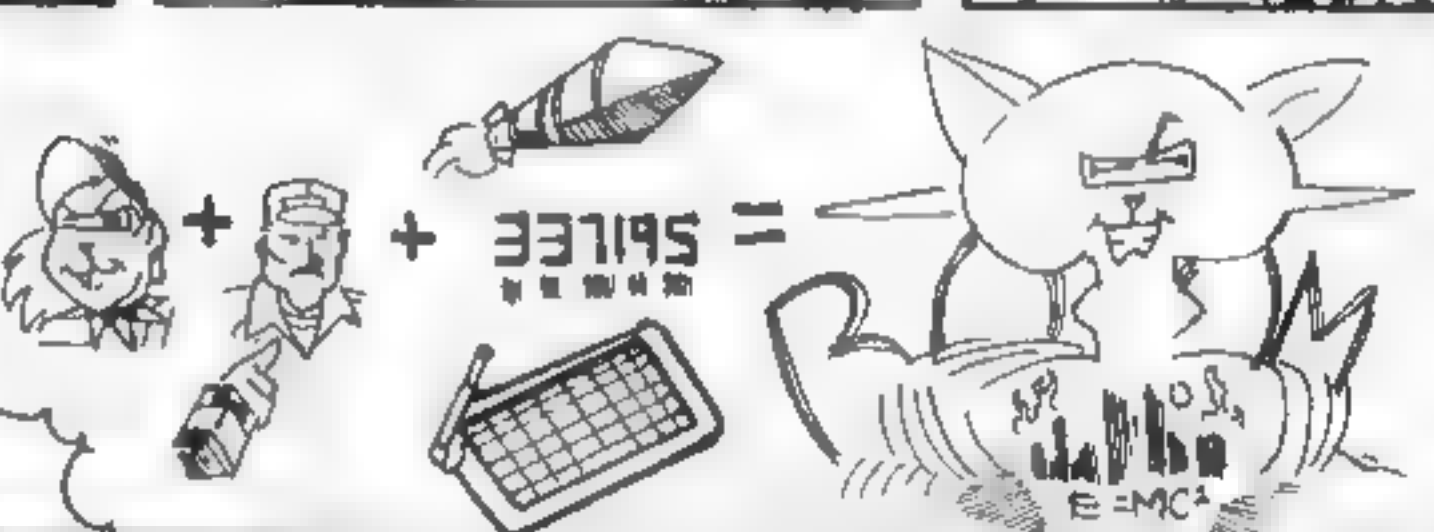
AND HOW ABOUT THOSE CONTROL CODES, WHERE ARE THEY, SOLDIER.



DON'T WORRY YOURSELF COLONEL, THEY ARE ALL UP HERE!



CHERRIES MAYBE YOU... CHERRIES? UH, CHERRIES...



WELL SARGE, LONG TIME NO SEE. HOW ABOUT YOU JUST GIVE CHERRIES THOSE NAUGHTY CODES!



LIKE I SAID, THERE IS SOMETHING A BIT FREUDIAN 'BOUT HER.



UH COLONEL, IS THAT SPELLED... HERE.

MORNING...

THE ARMADILLO, A VERY TIMID, CREATURE. TODAY IT PREPARES FOR IT'S DAILY SOJURN.

THIS TOUGH LIL' FELLOW IS DISTINGUISHED BY HIS THICK SHELL AND STURDY BODY CONSTRUCTION.

HIS ENVIRONMENT IS, OF COURSE, THE HIGHWAY.

IT'S A SHAME THAT ARMADILLOS CAN'T DIG THRU CONCRETE.



UNFORTUNATELY THE HIGHWAY THESE DAYS HAS OTHER INHABITANTS !!

POAR



POAR



HEY, WHAT WAS THAT?!

FROM MY ARMY EXPERIENCE, IT SOUNDED LIKE AN ARMADILLO TURNIN' INTO A ROAD PIZZA.



WHAT TH' HELL IS GOIN' ON? I'M TRYIN' FOR A BIT MORE SHUTEYE!



LOOK OUT!



IN THE NAME OF THE DALMATIANS...
DIE!

BRU

UNN

NEXT:
IT'S A SIX PAGE
FIGHT SCENE!
WOW!

MORPHS

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Jim Groat

Yup, here it is, #2 of **MORPHS**. In a way I'm surprised to see it in print. **MORPHS** was born last year at San Diego Con. A few fellow artists were complaining that there was only one comic that featured funny animal artists. The waiting list was a mile long and chances were slim at seeing their work in that book. There was also talk that certain select stories from the **APA ROWRBRAZZLE** should be printed. But who should print them?

I could run a story or two following the pages of **EQUINE**, but to me that wouldn't do the trick. There are a lot of good artists out there waiting, just waiting for that golden opportunity. A few friends suggested I do a comic on my attempted-for syndication comic strip **DANGERBEAR**. I wanted to but hated to take such an expensive risk. Also coming up with 26-28 pages of stories and gags hit me wrong at the time. That's when a copy of **CRITTERS** caught my eye. "Why not?" I said. **CRITTERS** is an excellent comic, yet I kept hearing the same complaints. "The same 3 or 4 artists, one issue after the other, rarely any new blood." Within less than an hour I bounced the idea off of several people, they loved it. "DO IT" they said. The results are now in your hands. Already issue 5 is almost booked (I'm pondering on running a **DANGERBEAR** story).

Issue #3 will have continuation of their stories, Phil Morrissey with **PUNK MUTANTS**, Tom Owens with **STAR LIZARD**, Tom Linehan with **J.L. COON**. New artists will be Donna (Kraut) Barr with **BOSOM ENEMIES** and Darin Davis with **BOTSWANNA BISON**.

Oh yes, I'm not saying **CRITTERS** is junk, no way! By all means read **CRITTERS**, I recommend it highly.

KEN MITCHRONEY BIO/DEGRADABLE

Years ago Ken ran away from the circus to be a small child and has been working on it ever since. This somewhat lifelike cartoonist is head honcho and moronic force behind the popular series **SPACE ARK**. Also is the new kid on the block with **MYTH ADVENTURES** at Apple comics. His work appears in **MODEL RAILROADER**, **STAR LOG** and other funny animal publications. He's been cartooning as far back as he can remember. Yeah, they're still trying to get the crayon marks off the walls. A steady diet of funny animals and cartoons has made him what he is today, 4 bricks shy of a 5 brick load. Ken's hobbies include refurbishing old steam locomotives, researching old railroads, model trains and trains and more trains. Ken has more funny animal projects planned, he's currently living in one now in Deland Florida on five acres with his lovely wife Beth and all her live funny animals. And yet can see the railroad from his property.

BETH WEILMAN-MITCHRONEY

Beth learned to love science fiction through novels and monster movies she discovered at 8 after she read the Graham Texas library's entire collection of horse books. She discovered fan clubs after moving to Florida and became an artist and writer for fanzines. She attended art shows, cons and won costume contests. Beth met Ken Mitchrone at her club convention. They dated and were married in 1983. She continued her interest in Fandomby, a Starfleet fanclub in which she is a xenobiologist/alien cultures officer of the U.S.S. Pagean under Captain Peggy Vanguard. She is a space programs enthusiast and a reporter for the Daytona paper. She also scripts for **MYTH CONCEPTIONS** and contributes occasionally to **SPACE ARK**. But she has never lost her love for horses as her thoroughbred, Stradivarius and Ken's morgan quarterhorse, Buddy, will attest. The rest of the family is Toby the killer rabbit, Pete the dog, Kiko the feathered tape recorder parakeet, Sheradon the cat and six chickens and visitors from the neighboring national wildlife refuge along with hundreds of anoles.

SEND ALL LETTERS TO:

MORPHS MAIL
P.O. BOX 32292
TUCSON, AZ. 85751

Dear Mr. Groat,

Hey! It was Great! I'm dying to see number 2. Maybe if you can make the Comic-con, and if you have #2 until then I have (drum roll please) MORPHS!! (hooray)

Kudos to pass on to the artists.

PHIL MORRISSEY: This gent has an excellent sense of physical and facial expression. The fact that I don't like his style is nothing more than my own poor taste. I also didn't like Cherries. Then again I never liked cherries, no matter how they were served.

TOM OWENS: Hey, that was fun! The girl robot at the bar has an interesting personality. Wish we could get to know her. The Talon killer was fun too. I like a man who enjoys his work.

JOHN SPEIDEL: NOW HERE A MAN WHO KNOWS HOW TO USE SOLIDS! Kitty was awfully cute too, but she didn't have whiskers. The duck was too grouchy. There are already too many grouchy ducks. Probably too late to change Ali's disposition though, he looks like the sort to attract fans. I think I might buy the books for just Kitty Malone. Maybe Mr. Speidel will do a graphic novel.

JERRY COLLINS: What can I say? Should have been a page farther along so that the huxter's room would be behind the "This 'ere panel gag. She was cute. The artwork didn't look finished, but it DID look enthusiastic. I vote we put this gent on again.

TOM LINEHAN: A good clean style. Good story too. I think I would've enjoyed it more if I had read the earlier stories and knew the characters better.

I assume this section will have letters next time, along with a note on the artists. Maybe you could call it "dreams of MORPHEUS" (alright, it's a lousy name. But poetic!)

See you in number 2

Claude L. Medearis, San Diego, Ca.

Better hope Cherries doesn't get a hold of you, that chick has a nasty temper, I know, she wiped out a whole smurf village with a small thurmo-nuke and only cracked a smile.

DISTRIBUTORS:

Bud Plant, Diamond, Capital City, Alternate Realities, Stylt, Andromeda, Multi-Book, Cavco, Heros World, Titan, Friendly Franks, Second Genesis

DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE TALENT?

We are soliciting submissions by any budding "funny-animal" cartoonists out there for possible publication in MORPHS.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE

DO NOT SEND YOUR ORIGINALS TO US!!

Send good xerox copies with an S.A.S.E. and your full address and phone number on a separate sheet of paper. Those submissions sent without an S.A.S.E. will be trashed.

Who knows, your feature might be the new "Ninja Turtles".

Send submissions to:

MORPHS SUBMISSIONS

P.O. BOX 32292
TUCSON, AZ 85751

Here's a list of suggested reading. If you haven't seen 'em, give 'em a try. Tell them EQUINE sent you. "ALBEDO" by Steve Gallacci, P.O. Box 19419, Queen Anne Station, Seattle, WA 98109. "Eb'Nn" by Chris Ecker and Mike Dimpsey, P.O. Box 463, Brookfield, IL 60513. "SAMURAI PENGUIN" by Dan Vado and Mark Buck, 983 South Bascom Ave., San Jose, CA 95128. "HAMSTER VICE" by Dwayne Ferguson and "NERVOUS REX" by William Van Horn, c/o Blackthorne Publishing, 786 Blackthorne Ave., El Cajon, CA 92020. "SPACE ARK" by Ken Mitchroney, P.O. Box 787, Bethel, CT 06801. "TALES FROM THE ANIVERSE" by Randy Zimmerman, 1269 Russell Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. From Fantagraphic Books: "CRITTERS", "USAGI YOJIMBO" by Stan Sakai, "CAPTAIN JACK" by Mike Kazaleh, c/o Fantagraphic Books, 4359 Cornell Rd., Agoura, CA 91301.

And, of course, the masters (please bow and recite after me...) "TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES" by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird, P.O. Box 417, Haydenville, MA 01039. "CEREBUS" by Dave Sim, P.O. Box 1674 Stn C Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2.





BIMBORD/HAKU
HASINQUERRY
COLLINS 1986